MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 MARCH 1981

Iran

Khomeyni Statement, Speech--Following his previously reported meeting with high-level officials who are currently at loggerheads, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni issued a 10-point list of instructions, broadcast textually by Tehran radio, to protect the Islamic Republic at "this delicate moment." Khomeyni instructed the president, the prime minister, the Supreme Court president and the Majlis speaker not to deliver any speech until the conclusion of the war with Iraq, although interviews will be permissible. His instructions stipulated that interference by any official in the affairs of other officials is illegal and unconstitutional, and he stressed that no one has the right publicly to "insult or weaken" high-level officials, who are all "law abiding." Khomeyni also said that President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr should be "recognized" in his capacity as armed forces commander and should be obeyed by his subordinate commanders. Khomeyni announced that a committee will be formed to investigate disputes between officials and complaints concerning war issues. The three-man committee, which will also scrutinize the media, will include representatives of the president, "the other side" and Ayatollah Khomeyni. It will make decisions by majority vote. Officials should cooperate to solve Iran's problems, Khomeyni stipulated, and Friday imams and other speakers should not make statements that cause disunity.

Tehran radio also broadcast a speech by Ayatollah Khomeyni in which he expressed the hope that differences at all levels would be eliminated. Speaking to a women's organization, he advised the nation not to become involved in disputes at the top and thereby avoid "fanning" them. Differences between various groups, he warned, could lead to Iran's defeat in the war.

Colonel Hijacks Plane--Ankara radio reported that an Iranian colonel hijacked a transport aircraft, forcing it to land in Turkey. The colonel's request for asylum is being studied, the radio added, and the plane and the rest of its crew have been returned to Iran.

Bazaar Closure Call--Tehran radio reported that in response to a call for a closure of the Tehran bazaar published in the newspaper MIZAN by what the radio called a hitherto unknown merchants', shopkeepers' and craftmen's guild, a Chamber of Commerce spokesman stated that the bazaar will remain open. A statement by the president's office also indicated that the bazaar should remain open, the radio reported. According to another radio report, the public prosecutor's office summoned MIZAN's publisher to explain the guild's statement.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Mediation Efforts--Following a meeting with Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure in Jidda, Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti said that Iran's and Iraq's replies to the Islamic Conference good offices committee peace proposals have left the door open for further efforts to find a solution to the conflict. In his remarks, reported by SPA, Chatti said that although the committee has not been coordinating with a similar Nonaligned Movement committee, it appreciates and encourages all efforts being made to seek peace. Later, SPA reported that Sekou Toure, the committee chairman, revealed that the committee will meet on 27 March. Baghdad and Tehran have urged the committee to "conduct direct steps" with each of them, he said, adding that the committee has refused a request that it become a tribunal. Meanwhile, the Nonaligned Movement committee currently trying to promote a settlement between Iran and Iraq met at the PLO's Beirut headquarters, Beirut radio reported.

Iraqi Minister Interviewed--In an interview published in the 13 March issue of the London-based AL-HAWADITH, Iraqi Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah said that the Soviet Union has adopted a neutral stand on the Iranian-Iraqi war, neither supporting nor abandoning Iraq. While asserting that Iraq has friendly relations with the Soviet Union, Khayrallah indicated that the Soviet Union might find Iraq's failure to coordinate with it in the current situation "unacceptable" and that the Soviets might therefore "be upset in one way or another" and have "reservations" about the extent to which they would continue supporting Iraq. The major powers, he said, are upset by Iraq's independent thinking.

Military Situation--Tehran radio reported small-scale engagements and exchanges of fire on most fronts, but added that firing around Abadan was intense. It also reported that Iraqi forces shelled Dezful. A General Command communique, carried by INA, claimed that 97 Iranians were killed in various engagements, most casualties occurring in the Abadan and Gilan-e Gharb areas.

Libya

In connection with Libya's last-minute refusal to accept the prisoners released by Pakistan in exchange for hostages held by hijackers of a Pakistani airliner, Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has said that Libya did not know who the hijackers were, what their purpose was or whether those released were actually political prisoners. Speaking at a press conference, reported by JANA, Al-Qadhdhafi asserted that his country opposes terrorism and hijacking. He drew a distinction, however, between groups that use terrorism and those that use "revolutionary violence," saying that Libya supports the revolutionary violence of such groups as the Palestinians. Al-Qadhdhafi denied that there are East German, Soviet or Cuban technical advisers in Libya but said that Soviet and French personnel are in the country to train Libyans in the use of arms bought from the USSR and France. He also expressed the hope that Libya would have good relations with the new U.S. administration, but added that "we still do not know" President Ronald Reagan.

Lebanon

According to Beirut radio, two Nigerian UNIFIL soldiers were killed during shelling of Al-Qantarah "from the border area." It added that the Lebanese Army unit in the area has recently been "expanding" its deployment. A statement issued by Christian militia leader Maj Sa'd Haddad, reported by the Voice of Hope radio, said that no Lebanese soldiers will be allowed in the area until all Syrian soldiers withdraw from Lebanon.

Israel

In a statement to the Knesset, reported by IDF radio, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that because of the U.S. decision to sell F-15 and AWACS aircraft to Saudi Arabia, a "shadow has been cast" on U.S.-Israeli relations. He added that attempts to balance the sale by supplying Israel with weapons under special terms will be ineffective because Israel will not be able to keep up with the arms race in the Middle East.

Pakistan

Karachi radio has broadcast the names of 27 of the 54 prisoners released in exchange for hostages held by hijackers of a Pakistani airliner. According to AFP, which cited an "informed source" in Islamabad, those named include several activists of the banned Pakistani People's Party of executed former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. One, it added, was a minister in Bhutto's cabinet. Some of the prisoners were student leaders who organized demonstrations against President Mohammad Ziaul Haq last month, AFP reported.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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CHATTI, SEKOU TOURE ON GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE

Habib Chatti

BK161647 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, has said that positive elements are there in the replies of both Iran and Iraq regarding the conference's peace plan for which the path of negotiations is open. He said that it is incorrect to say that the Islamic ummah peace mission has failed. Chatti said this in Jidda today following his talks with Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure, the chairman of the Islamic Conference peace mission. During the talks the next step to be taken following Iran's rejection of the peace plan were discussed. Chatti said that the mission is working with UN Secretary General Dr Waldheim. He, however, said that the mission has no connection with the nonaligned committee which has been entrusted with the task of ending the Iran-Iraq war.

Sekou Toure

LD162046 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1910 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Jidda, 16 Mar (SPA)--This evening Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure had a meeting in Jidda with Mr Habib Chatti, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, to discuss the Iraqi and Iranian stands following the two countries' replies to the proposals put by the Islamic good offices committee.

President Sekou Toure, chairman of the committee, said after the meeting that the committee decided to meet on 27 March in Jidda in order to discuss the issues which could assist in resolving the dispute between Iraq and Iran and to arrive at a satisfactory solution. Iraq and Iran, he added, have kept the door open for the committee to continue its contacts and efforts. He said that the committee has received messages from Baghdad and Tehran to the effect that the committee should conduct direct steps with the two countries.

He added that the committee refused a request that it should become a tribunal, since the aim of the committee is to achieve a cease-fire so as to reach a final solution for the problem. Both Iraq and Iran, he added, agree in principle on reaching a final solution to the problem; each has submitted some conditions; it is in the light of these conditions that other positive results can be achieved. He expressed optimism regarding the work of the committee in reaching a solution, adding that the committee constitutes an opportunity to stop innocent bloodshed in the two brotherly Muslim countries. This opportunity must not be lost.

'ARAFAT, MALMIERCA MEET ON IRANIAN-IRAQI CONFLICT

NC161222 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Excerpt] This morning brother commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with Cuban Foreign Minister Malmierca and Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao. The meeting was attended by Abu al-Lutuf, the head of the PLO Political Department.

During the meeting views were exchanged on the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and particularly the recent developments.

NEW FATAH COUNCIL SECRETARIAT BUREAU APPOINTED

NC161255 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council, in its new formation, held a meeting last night. It elected the council secretariat office as follows:

Brother (Sakhr Abu Nizar), secretary;

Brother (Abu al-'Abd al-'Aqluq), deputy secretary;

Brother (Abu Khalid al-'Amri), deputy secretary.

The council heard the Central Committee report on the political, military, security and organizational situations as well as the situation in the occupied territories. An intensive discussion took place of the Fatah movement internal situation in the light of the fourth movement conference.

SAUDI ARABIA MAKES $28 MILLION PAYMENT TO PLO

LD151022 Riyadh SPA in Arabic GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] Riyadh, 15 March--Fatah Central Committee member and representative to Saudi Arabia Rafiq an-Natshah has received a check for $28 million representing the sum committed by the Saudi Arabian Kingdom for the benefit of the PLO during the Baghdad conference.

An-Natshah thanked the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and people headed by King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz for their constant support for the Palestine revolution.

JOINT HIGHER SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETS 13 MAR

JN140710 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Text] The joint higher security committee held its weekly ordinary session yesterday. It discussed the security situation in all its aspects, issued the necessary directives and adopted necessary measures. The committee also discussed the incident involving prominent lawyer struggler Rashid Dabbas in Tripoli last Thursday, denounced and condemned the incident and called for the punishment of its perpetrators.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES SOVIET AMBASSADOR 14 MAR

JN150737 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to Arab World 0530 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO executive chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, yesterday evening received Soviet ambassador in Beirut Alexandr Soldatov.

It has been learned that the Soviet ambassador conveyed to brother leader Abu 'Ammar a message from the Soviet leaders on the current international situation, particularly pertaining to the Middle East. The message also contained clarification of Comrade Brezhnev's proposals made at the 26th CPSU Congress on the Palestinian issue.

KUWAIT

MINISTER REJECTS RDF, SUPERPOWER PRESENCE IN GULF

LD161308 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1214 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Mar (KUNA)--Kuwait today renewed its rejection of any superpower presence in the Gulf including that of the Rapid Deployment Force which the United States is forming for use in the Arab Gulf area.

Minister of state for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn told newsmen today that Kuwait sees no need for the American Rapid Deployment Force or any military presence by any superpower in the area "because any foreign military presence there will only turn it into an area of conflicts." "Such a state," he said, "is neither in the interest of the region nor in the interest of the oil-consuming countries and will drag the region into a situation of unknown limits."

Husayn warned that the presence of any superpower will be tantamount to an invitation to the other superpower to make a presence. If the United States seeks to insure the flow of oil by the formation of the Rapid Deployment Force, "this is a matter which we too are anxious to maintain because oil is a commodity which constitutes a chief source of income for Kuwait."

The Kuwaiti minister also replied to some press criticism made in Arab countries outside the Gulf area against the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council formed by Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the Sultanate of Oman. He attributed these criticisms to "some brothers lacking a clear idea of the council." Many, he said, have commented on the establishment of the council "without reading" the document of its establishment which, he said, "contains a clear and ample provision to the effect that the Cooperation Council actually bolsters the Arab League and operates within its framework."

Husayn continued to defend the establishment of the council, which was established last month, saying: "The council was established to further coordination among a group of countries with similar geographic and economic conditions as well as income sources and nature of people. It also aims at affirming the Arab character of the area's countries and at bolstering the Arab League Charter."

He affirmed that "Kuwait pays great attention to joint Arab action, the Arab League and bolstering the league's role."

COMMENTARY ON FORTHCOMING VISIT BY SECRETARY HAIG

LD151504 Kuwait KUNA in English 1041 GMT 16 Mar 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Mar (KUNA)--ARAB TIMES on Haig's coming visit to the region:

"The new American secretary of state is coming to the Middle East on what he claims is an exploratory mission. Haig, Jr will certainly fail because he does not seem convinced that there can be no solution without the participation of the people most concerned--the Palestinians. The PLO is recognised by all the Arab countries as well as most of the other countries of the world as the sole representative of the Palestinians who have the right to self-determination and to establish their independent state in their homeland Palestine.

"If Alex Haig, Jr bears this important fact in mind and conducts his talks accordingly, then it is possible he will be successful. Otherwise it is better for him to cancel his trip.

"Haig's visit should be preceded by a U.S. denunciation of Israel's attack on Lebanon and its barbaric actions in the West Bank where it is constructing new settlements for Jews in the occupied Arab lands by ousting helpless Arabs. On the other hand, if Haig's visit is intended to win support for the Camp David accords he should recall the strong Arab rejection of these accords and the stress on the rights of the people of Palestine above all. He should realise that the Arabs will believe no American promises because (?of the long) history of prevarication by the United States and because U.S. policy remains the same though secretaries of state come and go.

"Americans can, indeed, contribute to the search for a solution to the Middle East problem, but the U.S. proposals should be based on recognition of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians. There will be a strong contribution from the Arabs when they unite their potentialities to face the Zionist threat to the whole Arab world."

ARAB TIMES ON U.S. REJECTION OF TALKS WITH USSR

LD141254 Kuwait KUNA in English 1020 GMT 14 Mar 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Mar (KUNA)--ARAB TIMES on the U.S. rejection of Brezhnev's proposal:

"The statement of the U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Jr that a summit meeting between President Reagan and President Brezhnev is unlikely in the near future is a step calculated to create more tension in the world and to give America more time to stir trouble in major world areas to force the Soviets to make concessions in Afghanistan, Poland and other areas where the two giants are in conflict."

The main losers will be the Third World and the oil-producing nations. The conflict is expected to reach a climax in the next 4 years and the oil countries will be the target. The only faults of these countries is that they are [words indistinct] and rely for arms mainly on the two giants.

The American rejection of the proposal has created fears that the new U.S. administration is planning a meeting similar to Yalta to divide the rest of the world between them.

We Arabs would like to remind the two giants that the Arab people have a steady declared stand that rejects any foreign intervention in their internal affairs and the Arab Gulf countries have repeatedly pointed out that the Gulf countries alone are responsible for protection of their countries and need no foreign troops in the area. And if the United States or the USSR succeeded in persuading some Arab countries to allow them to build bases, this is not a pretext for interference in the internal affairs of any of the non-aligned countries who look for the independence and development of their nations.

The two superpowers could prove their goodwill towards other countries of the world by agreeing to a world conference to solve world issues in an amicable atmosphere based on equality and freedom.

The first step towards this end should be taken by the United States by recognising the Palestine Liberation Organisation to enable it to attend this conference and consequently work out a solution for the rights of the Palestinians to regain their occupied territories and live freely in their homeland.

PAPER SAYS U.S. IS INCREASING TENSION IN GULF

LD141158 Kuwait KUNA in English 1012 GMT 14 Mar 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Mar (KUNA)--AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM on the U.S. policy:

"It is difficult to understand how the United States is concerned over the security and stability of the Gulf states and at the same time trying constantly to destroy the region's stability by exposing it to dangers. The U.S. troop buildup in the area is nothing but inviting danger to it.

The United States had intended to escalate tension in the area when it announced officially that it would supply the Afghan revolutionists with weapons. This announcement means an indirect message to the Soviet Union that it intends to create a 'Vietman' for Russia in Aghanistan. And this also means turning the Gulf region into a battlefield.

The United States is trying to drag the Soviet Union to the Gulf region in order to frighten its states with the 'Soviet ghost' and consequently strengthen U.S. influence there and weaken the Arab Gulf countries' role against Israel which grew stronger after the Camp David accords were signed.

The U.S. was not satisfied with dragging the Soviets into Afghanistan but it also wants them to be drawn to other areas, mainly Iran, to make the Soviet danger something real thus creating another Berlin in the Gulf area. The United States knows that Americans can co-live with the Soviets in the Gulf, the same as in Berlin. The most important thing is to impose U.S. hegemony over the oil-rich Gulf region.

GULF COUNTRIES TO NEGOTIATE MILITARY COOPERATION

LD151153 Kuwait KUNA in English 1014 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] Kuwait, 15 March (KUNA)--A local newspaper reported Sunday that six Arab Gulf countries would soon begin negotiations to pool their military potential and to work out a joint defence strategy within the framework of a recently-formed council for Gulf cooperation.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM said the talks will be conducted by the defence ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman but it did not give the date or the venue of the proposed meeting.

Quoting 'well-informed' sources in Riyadh, the newspaper said that there was a general agreement among the Gulf countries to finalise a joint strategy for armament, exchange of expertise and carrying out manoeuvres "in order to ease future cooperation and to ensure maximum efficiency."

It added that the ministers will exchange viewpoints on the best means for protection of the Gulf and (?keeping) it away from conflicts and external schemes.

According to the newspaper the sources did not completely rule out the idea that the ministers will discuss creation of a joint corporation for arms manufacturing to realise self-sufficiency in this field.

This is the first report on (?likely defence) coordination between member states in the council for Gulf cooperation which was established at a meeting by the foreign ministers of the six countries in Riyadh early last month.

The major goal of the council is to achieve integration and coordination among these countries in the political, defence, economic and commercial fields.

The foreign ministers also met in Muscat last week where they endorsed the council's instruments of ratification and agreed to hold another meeting in Abu Dhabi on May 24 to prepare (?for) a summit conference of their leaders on May 26.

USSR ENVOY TO KUWAIT ON GULF SECURITY QUESTIONS

LD141148 Kuwait KUNA in English 1052 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Mar (KUNA)--The Soviet ambassador in Kuwait, Nikolay Sikachev, described as "absurd" the Western concept that oil interests in the region can be safeguarded by turning the region into a powderkeg.

In an exclusive interview with the daily ARAB TIMES, Sikachev said the Gulf people do not want to sit on a powderkeg and they do not want to be under the security umbrella of the West.

Sikachev quoted the Soviet President Brezhnev's declaration to the 26th Soviet Communist Party Congress that "not war preparations, which doom the peoples to a senseless squandering of their material and spiritual wealth, but consolidation of peace is the key to the future".

The Soviet ambassador stated that Moscow holds different opinions on the preservation of world peace than those advocated by the West.

"It is clear now that the aggravated situation in the Gulf area stems directly from the fact that no settlement for the region as a whole has yet been found," Sikachev pointed out.

The Soviet Union had more than once warned against the negative consequences of the Middle East crisis and proposed removing the military threat by concluding an international agreement rather than escalating the naval and air armadas, troops and arms, he said.

"The Soviet Union was prepared to negotiate the Gulf as an independent problem and does not object to the question being connected with Afghanistan," the Soviet ambassador stated.

Moscow advocates practical agreements on the Gulf problem giving first priority to the legitimate interests of the peoples of the region.

The Soviet peace plan, which the West regrettably rejected, gives full consideration to dismantling foreign military bases, a ban on the location of nuclear or other mass destruction weapons in the Gulf, respect of the sovereign rights of the states to their own natural resources, and the freedom of navigation on sea routes and solution of the problem of safe oil supplies, the ambassador said.

The Soviet stand was directed at ending of the tension in the Gulf area within the general context of the new Soviet peace initiative and opening up new opportunities for a positive solution, Sikachev said.

For years now the Soviet Union has been a supporter of the idea of converting the Indian Ocean and the Gulf into a zone of peace and has been an active champion of the implementation of the relevant United Nations declaration adopted 10 years ago, the Soviet ambassador assured the ARAB TIMES.

SAUDIA ARABIA

FRG PARLIAMENTARIAN ON ARMS SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA

LD170953 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 10 Mar 81 p 5

[Interview granted by Juergen Moellemann, member of the FRG Bundestag's foreign and defense committee and spokesman of the Free Democratic Party, to 'Abd al-Karim Ya'qub in Riyadh--date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Question] Can we know something about your talks with His Highness [Foreign Minister] Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal during your meeting with him on Sunday?

[Answer] We discussed the situation in the Middle EAst and the likely developments of this situation. I informed His Highness Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal that our foreign minister, Hans Dietrich Genscher, who is currently visiting Washington, will meet with President Reagan and Secretary of State Alexander Haig and that he will try to influence the American officials to take further steps inthe peace policy in the Middle East that will be in harmony with the European Common Market countries' statement issued in Venice last summer. We also hope that the United States will take into consideration not only the participation of Egypt and Israel in the negotiations but also all the parties concerned in the Middle East conflict, including the PLO.

These were the points that I discussed with his highness the foreign minister. The other points dealt with the great potential for developing bilateral relations and strengthening cooperation in financial, economic, and cultural relations as well as in security matters.

Within the framework of my contacts with officials in the kingdom, yesterday I met with Chief of Staff Lt Gen Muhammad Salih al-Hammad. We discussed certain aspects of cooperation in this field while I discussed the political aspect of this cooperation with Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal.

[Question] It is reported that there is opposition in your country to the German Government's desire to meet the kingdom's request for German arms. What is your comment on this?

[Answer] Obviously there are certain political groups on the German political scene that oppose such cooperation. There are several groups: First, there is a group that opposes any sale of arms outside the NATO alliance; second, there is another group that believes in the need to build a vast military industry in the country and once this is completed we begin establishing a sales network as much as we can; there is a third group that fully realized the need to support those why try to resist any Soviet expansion following the Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan; and there is a fourth and last group, which represents politicians and public figures, that fears any cooperation in this field that might be directed against Israel.

But in any case we have not yet taken a decision for or against such cooperation, which means that those who support the sale of arms must talk to and convince those who so far are still in doubt.

[Question] Can it be said that the situation will become clear during or after Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's visit to the kingdom next month?

[Answer] I can say nothing in this regard because I am not a member of the government. I am only a member of the Federal Parliament.

[Question] Does this mean that you are not in the kingdom to prepare the grounds for Chancellor Schmidt's coming visit?

[Answer] No, I am visiting the kingdom only in my capacity as a parliamentarian. The government has its own representative. But when I return to Bonn I will submit a report to Foreign Minister Genscher and the government officials will take into consideration what I have to say. But I cannot say whether or not the decision will be clear by the time Chancellor Schmidt comes to your country. We must leave this matter to be discussed then.

[Question] Your country contributed to the European effort to find peace in the Middle East, which is known as the European initiative. Do you believe that this initiative will be purely European or will it form part of other efforts, American for example?

[Answer] I believe that any initiative on the part of Europe must be coordinated with the ideas of the new U.S. administration which are now under consideration. But I believe that the basic elements in the EC Venice statement last summer must be acceptable to the United States as well. I cannot imagine that there is any peaceful solution for the Middle East problem without the participation of all the parties to the conflict, including the Palestinians.

[Question] What is your comment on British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's recent statements in which she called for the participation of Western forces in the U.S. Rapid Deployment Forces [RDF] in the Gulf?

[Answer] I believe that we must help those who want to defend themselves which appears to me more important than the idea you mentioned in your question. But on the other hand, you know that the Soviet forces have become very strong which makes it necessary to discuss this idea seriously. I imagine that we can decide on something after the discussion which seems to me has begun but has not ended yet.

UAE

PETROLEUM MINISTER ON GULF COUNCIL, OIL PRICES

JN141540 Doha QNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Text] Jidda, 14 Mar (QNA)--UAE Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah has stated that the Cooperation Council of the Arab Gulf States is actually a process for organizing cooperation among the member states.

In an interview with the paper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he pointed out that describing the present coordination among the Arab Gulf states as a unity or federation is an over-exaggeration. He added that what is actually taking place is a reorganization of already existing relations.

On Gulf security he stated that this should be achieved by the Gulf states themselves since these states alone are concerned with their region.

He proposed a four-point program which, if implemented, would guarantee security for the Arab Gulf regions: First, to find stability for this sensitive region lying over a sea of oil; second, to remove the Gulf region from international conflicts; third, to remove the armies and fleets from this explosive lake; and fourth, to strengthen the Gulf states both economically and politically.

He pointed out that if the Gulf states are bolstered these states will form a chain that will maintain Gulf security and, in turn, maintain the region's security.

He stated that his country sees no need for friends to come with their armies since such a step might compel the other side to do likewise. He pointed out that what is taking place between the superpowers on the high seas does not concern the Gulf states. Rather, he added, this is solely the superpowers' concern.

On oil prices Dr al-'Utaybah said: The adoption of a decision to increase oil prices entirely depends on the situation of the market and supply and demand.

He added that his country will not support any increase in oil prices since it is now time to give the oil market some time to breathe and rest and to allow the world economy to digest the sharp increases in oil prices that occurred during the years 1979 and 1980.

He stressed that it would be in OPEC's interest to freeze oil prices until the end of the current year.

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KAHDDAM ARRIVES 14 MAR

JN140907 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0850 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Mar (GNA)--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Abu Dhabi from Damascus this morning on a visit of several hours to the UAE to deliver a message to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan on bilateral relations and the current Arab situation.

Khaddam was welcomed at the airport by Health Minister Hamad 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Madfah, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Harwan and Mukhlis Fir'awn, Syrian charge d'affaires in the UAE.

Departure Statement

JN150840 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0630 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Mar (GNA)--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Abu Dhabi this morning following a 1-day visit to the UAE.

In a predeparture statement Khaddam said that he had conveyed a message to the UAE president, His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on current Arab issues and bilateral relations. He also said that His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan asked him to convey a message to President Hafiz al-Asad on the subjects which they had discussed.

AL-FAJR ON UK, U.S. REMARKS ON GULF SECURITY

GF151859 Abu Dhabi AL-FAJR in Arabic 14 Mar 81 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] U.S. and British statements on the Rapid Deployment Force in the Gulf region and the counterstatements issued daily by Arab officials affirming that the people of the area are able to defend it and that they reject the intervention of U.S. or British forces and the presence of such forces are like the cold war that takes place between the United States and the Soviet Union from time to time. Every newscast or paper includes a report on this matter. We must know that these reports are like trial balloons to test the pulse and prepare the people for any incident or intervention that might take place.

We must also be aware that these stands must not only be discussed through the media but also must be discussed frankly and openly with the officials who declare them.

The British prime minister announced a while ago that she will visit the countries of the region. When she went to meet Reagan, she announced that she would participate in the Rapid Deployment Force because the Gulf region concerns her. Thatcher is a high official with much weight. Her announcement on such a stand must not pass unheeded. It is not a matter to be treated only in a protesting newspaper editorial or a radio commentary because it is a matter that concerns the sovereignty of countries and the stability of people.

Discussing this issue must be on the official level and must be announced frankly and openly in order to know what is being planned for our region. These people will be either "friends," who are worried about us because of a danger unknown to us and who want to point it out to us and seriously discuss it or they are imperialists, who want to take our wealth by creating a problem and then come to solve it, thus imposing their mandate on us, which is a real possibility.

When that becomes evident during dialogue, we will inform them that we reject mandate, and that their coming will not protect us or protect their interests in our countries because it is an unjustifiable coming. Rather, it is putting the whole region amid international conflicts, and the catastrophe of their intervention will herald a destructive world war.

The serious action that must be taken is to cease making statements, to tackle the matter with those who raise and escalate it and to declare our stand clearly--that this region is facing a peaceful and stable future--or we have to advise our people to prepare themselves for a war aginst new imperialists.

PDRY

PDRY TO STRENGTHEN STRUGGLE AGAINST 'U.S. PRESENCE'

LD151515 Algiers APS in English 1135 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] Algiers, 15 Mar (APS)--"The U.S. presence is a matter of concern and danger for the Gulf region," the president of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, declared in an interview to the national daily EL MOUDJAHID.

"We are witnessing a vast deployment of U.S. force in Oman, Egypt, and Somalia," President 'Ali Nasir added, before indicating, "that's why we have on several occasions drawn attention of the Gulf states on the role of sultan of Qabus, and his complicity in giving facilities to the American bases."

"The danger is not threatening South Yemen only but all countries of the region, and despite all attempts of reactionary forces, we are determined to strengthen our struggle against U.S. presence," Mr 'Ali Nasir said.

This could not be successful, he indicated, without the reinforcement of solidarity with the Steadfastness Front (Libya, Syria, Algeria, P.L.O.), and unity of action with African and Arab liberation movements, because danger is not threatening only the Palestinian question, but the movements of Arab liberation.

Speaking about Egyptian As-Sadat's proposal to create a Palestinian government in exile, the Yemeni head of state said "It is another attempt standing within continuity of his desperate initiatives".

Evoking his tour of the Gulf states (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates) last year, he declared, "We appealed on our brothers to contribute with us to establish peace, security and stability in the region".

President 'Ali Nasir said he recently dispatched the state minister in charge of the Council of Ministers, 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali, [title as received] to North Yemen and to other Gulf states for proposing to convene a summit conference aimed at opposing the "U.S. military presence."

Mr 'Ali Nasir added about reunification of the two Yemens: "The most important result reached so far is the pursuit of dialogue, but also the achievement of joint projects in the fields of transports and tourism".

He underlined importance of carrying on dialogue and keeping in touch. "We consider that all what has been done is another step towards achievement of our unity and economic complementarity between our two states", South Yemen president concluded.

PFLO RADIO CITES GULF PRESS ON RDF ACTIVITIES

LD152016 Aden Voice of PFLO in Arabic 1545 GMT 14 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The Kuwait news agency, KUNA, has reported that the commander of the aggressive Rapid Deployment Force [RDF], General Kelley, will be visiting Oman in the next few days. He will be the guest of the puppet regime in Muscat. His purpose will be to familiarize himself with the country and its military facilities.

KUNA pointed out that the visit was in response to an invitation extended by agent Qais Zawawi to the commander of the RDF to visit Oman during Zawawi's visit to Washington last February.

The agent Zawawi met the U.S. secretaries of state and defense and the commander of the RDF. He also delivered a message from agent Qabus to Reagan. The agency stated that although U.S. officials refused to reveal anything about them, the talks covered the joint military pact with the U.S. administration which the Muscat regime signed last June. The pact gave the U.S. forces the right to use military facilities in Oman. It also provided for the stationing of the RDF in Oman.

It should be noted that the visit of the commander of the aggressive U.S. RDF comes in the wake of the joint military exercises conducted by the U.S. force in collaboration with the forces of Qabus and Egyptian units stationed in Oman.

Last Wednesday, AS-SIYASAH of Kuwait said that the aggressive U.S. RDF which took part in the recent joint military exercises in Oman, consisted of 200 experts in telecommunications, in addition to a large number of soldiers.

The paper affirmed, on the basis of what it called informed sources, that the military installations which would be built in Oman, within the framework of the facilities granted by Qabus to the United States for the RDF, comprised four principal projects. AS-SIYASAH went on to say that the first project would be implemented on Masirah Island. The second project would be sited at Thumrayt in Dhufar and work on it was scheduled to end by 1984. The third military project would be established near Muscat while the fourth project, which would be constructed at Musandam near the Strait of Hormuz, would involve lethal nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile, an adviser to agent Qabus left the Egyptian capital last Wednesday for Muscat following a 3-day visit to As-Sadat's regime. During his stay there he met Husni Mubarak, the Egyptian vice president, and discussed with him methods of strengthening relations between the two puppet regimes and coordinating their positions in the service of colonialist and Zionist designs on the Arab region.

On the same subject the Saudi paper AL-MADINAH AL-MUNAWWARAH affirmed that an Egyptian unit of commandos consisting of 800 men had been stationed in Dhufar, close to the Oman-Yemeni border.

Earlier AS-SAFIR of Lebanon said that the Egyptian force had taken part in the exercises held by the aggressive U.S. RDF in collaboration with agent Qabus' forces. It is worth noting that the puppet Muscat regime denied what was said by AL-MADINAH AL-MUNAWWARAH of Saudi Arabia concerning the arrival of the Egyptian commandos in Dhufar and their stationing on the border with the PDRY. The regime, following its custom, claimed that there were no foreign troops of any kind in the Sultanate of Oman.

'ALI, ATHERTON DISCUSS HAIG'S VISIT TO MIDEAST

NC161610 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today met with U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton. After the meeting 'Ali made the following statement:

[Begin recording] The discussions dealt with Haig's forthcoming visit, some issues related to the negotiations on the formation of the multinational force, the topics to be discussed during Haig's forthcoming visit and the itinerary of the visit itself. Naturally, the topics to be raised are the Egyptian strategy in the Middle East, the Middle East problem and cooperation between Egypt and the United States. [end recording]

Kamal Hasan 'Ali also said that the U.S. State Department under secretary [not named] will arrive in the area by the end of this month.

The U.S. ambassador said that during his meeting with Kamal Hasan 'Ali he continued the discussions which he held with President as-Sadat and Vice President Husni Mubarak on the formation of the multinational force. He added that the basis for forming this force will be laid in light of the discussions which the U.S. secretary of state will hold in the area. He also said that the United States is currently holding contacts with Egypt and Israel regarding the multinational force.

'ALI COMMENTS ON CURRENT ISSUES TO FOREIGN PRESS

NC162015 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali expressed his hope that the current year will be the year of a dialogue with the Arab countries in order to attain a final solution to the Palestinian problem.

The foreign minister reaffirmed that should the Sudan be subjected to any Libyan threat Egypt will give it all the help it needs, in implementation of the joint defense agreement.

The foreign minister also affirmed that Egypt's efforts and interest are concentrated on the second phase of the Camp David agreement, related to full autonomy for the Palestinians as a transitory phase in prelude to the attainment of self-determination later on. Mr 'Ali added that the autonomy talks will be resumed only on a technical level during May or June.

Mr 'Ali made these statements this evening during his meeting with representatives of the international media and newspapers at their club at the Hilton Hotel in Cairo. The meeting was attended by the chairman of the information authority, Ambassador ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid, as well as the correspondent of the Los Angeles TIMES and the chairman of the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Cairo, (Don Eskinki).

The correspondents' questions were focused on three main topics, namely: Egyptian-Israeli relations and the autonomy talks; the multinational force, which will supervise the final Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai; and the Libyan intervention in Chad and its effects.

Asked to assess the role of Israel's ambassador to Cairo, Eliyahu ben-Elisar, on the occasion of his departure from Cairo to Israel the day after tomorrow, following his resignation, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: "Ambassador Eliyahu ben-Elisar was the first Israeli ambassador to Cairo and, as we know, all beginnings are difficult. However, he represented his country well during the past period. He participated in various negotiations related to normalization and was active in the implementation of the various agreements between the two countries."

Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali added: "I think that Eliyahu ben-Elisar and Mr Sa'd Murtada, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, were keen on implementing the various agreements between their two countries; and they were successful in their job."

Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali affirmed that "the normalization of relations between the two countries is proceeding adequately, without any hitches."

To a question regarding Mr 'Ali's latest statement, at the People's Assembly yesterday, regarding Chad and the threat posed by this situation to Sudan's security, Mr 'Ali said: "We will not allow Libya to intervene in a way that will threaten Sudan's security." The foreign minister affirmed that Egypt is standing ready to aid Sudan in various ways should it face any peril from Libya.

To another question, Mr 'Ali replied that Egypt and the Sudan have a joint defense agreement and that Egypt's preparedness is in conformity with this agreement between the two countries. Answering another question related to the same issue, the defense minister affirmed that should the Sudan face any peril and should it request Egypt's aid, then Egypt will immediately rush to Sudan's aid.

On Libya's activities in Africa, the foreign minister said that it is not reasonable to accept such Libyan intervention in African affairs. He added: I believe that Al-Qadhdhafi is merely a mount and a puppet in this intervention in Africa, because he is acting on behalf of others. Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali affirmed that Egypt's strategy and policy are based on shunning any intervention by an African state in another African country's affairs or against it. He added that this stems from the principles and charter of the OAU and that, out of this, we are confronting the Libyan intervention in Chad, which runs counter to the OAU's unity and our strategy.

To a correspondent's question concerning the Soviet presence in Libya and its effect on events, Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali replied that there are 1,750 Russians in Libya, in addition to a similar number of East Germans and Cubans. He noted that Soviet weapons are also playing their role and are being transferred to Chad. This indicates a Soviet hand behind events in Chad. To a correspondent's question on whether this means that the Soviets are involved in Chad, Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali replied that "the Soviets are involved in training troops and supplying them with weapons."

Asked whether Egypt gives weapons to the forces of Hissein Habre and whether they are sophisticated or conventional weapons, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: This is a secret matter and I prefer not to speak about it. What is important though is the Libyan interference, which is contradictory to the resolutions of the first and second Lagos conferences. In addition to this, the so called Libyan-Chadian unity is illegal, because it does not represent the wish of the Chadian people but is imposed by one side in conjunction with the provisional government, and 1 party among the 12 Chadian parties. The unity of Chad itself must be established before talking about unity between it and any other state. 'Ali was asked: Do you supply weapons to Hissein Habre to fight Goukouni Queddei or to strike Libya? He answered: We do not give him weapons to fight Goukouni Queddei but to confront the external interference.

Answering a question on how he viewed Egyptian-Israeli relations, particularly with regard to normalization, in the coming state, 'Ali said: Normalization is progressing normally, but normalization is not the only issue receiving our attention. What is important is autonomy for the Palestinians: we are concentrating our attention on this issue. 'Ali went on: There are other points which must be discussed during the coming period--the process of the complete Israeli withdrawal from Sinai during April next year. Our contacts are continuing in this regard with Israel and the United States.

He added: As for normalization, I would say that it is proceeding well and normally and that it is progressing. The two sides are keen on implementing the agreements concluded between the two countries. In other words, there are no problems regarding the question of normalization or the multinational force which will be formed to supervise the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. The only problem is the Palestinian autonomy negotiations, which are semifrozen.

Asked whether there were any contacts on any level between Egypt and the Arab states, 'Ali said: We have relations with the Sultanate of Oman, Somalia and Sudan. Answering another question, the foreign minister denied that there were any contacts with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Asked whether the press reports about the presence of Egyptian forces in Oman were true, the foreign minister said: Oman itself has denied this and I, too, deny it today.

A correspondent asked 'Ali about his earlier statement that this year would witness an improvement in the relations between Egypt and the Arab states. He said: I was expressing a hope. I still hope that this year will be a year of dialogue with the Arab states. We are not against them: We seek a common understanding which would help a final resolution on solving the Palestinian problem.

The foreign minister answered in the negative to a question on whether Egypt has sent military advisers to any foreign state. He said: Egypt has no military advisers outside its borders, except in some Arab state.

Asked what is Egypt's comment on Saudi Arabia's application for sophisticated weapons, particularly AWACS planes, 'Ali said: We have seen what happened in Afghanistan, which was subjected to Soviet interference. He added that Saudi Arabia's application is to meet its defense needs.

Answering a question, 'Ali said: The Camp David agreement is the basis for any solution. However, our minds are open and we will accept any steps or alternatives which the concerned parties in the Middle East will accept, but there are no alternatives yet.

Asked about the date of the resumption of the autonomy negotiations, 'Ali said: These negotiations, which have been postponed, could be resumed on the technical level during May or June.

Asked if he meant the PLO when speaking about the participation of the Palestinians in the negotiations, 'Ali said: President Anwar as-Sadat said at the European Parliament that there was a need for mutual recognition by the PLO and Israel. He also proposed the establishment of a provisional Palestinian government at the press conference he held afterwards in Paris. 'Ali added: When we speak about the participation of the Palestinians in the negotiations on the establishment of autonomy, we mean the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. As for the final agreement and the right of self-determination, which will follow this, the Palestinian government established in accordance with the full autonomy will represent everybody.

Asked about the U.S. presence in Egypt and about the number of U.S. forces Egypt needs, 'Ali said: What is important is not the number but whether we need these forces or not. When we acquire sophisticated weapons we send our men there to be well trained on them. We have experts to help in the training. We also provide them with facilities to carry out joint exercises with the Egyptian forces.

Questioned whether there were any contacts between Egypt and France regarding Chad, 'Ali said: We knew about Libya's intention to interfere in the affairs of Chad 2 years ago. Since then we have been in contact with the various parties concerned with African affairs, particularly France, regarding this matter.

Answering several questions on the multinational force which will supervise the withdrawal from Sinai, 'Ali said: I will start a tour of the northern European states--the Scandinavian states--tomorrow. My discussions will deal with the possibility of the participation of these states in the multinational force, particularly because they had previously participated in the UN peacekeeping forces. I discussed this question with the ambassadors of these states in Cairo during the past 2 days.

Questioned if contacts were held regarding the participation of Australian and New Zealand forces in the multinational force, 'Ali said: Unofficial contacts were held, but we have not yet contacted the two governments regarding their final decision.

After the press conference, (Don Eskinki), the chairman of the Foreign Correspondents Club, granted, in the name of all the foreign correspondents in Cairo, honorary membership in their club to Kamal Hasan 'Ali.

MAY INTERVIEWS 'ALI ON ISRAELI-ARAB RELATIONS

NC161027 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has said that a resumption of the autonomy negotiations for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza will not be possible, at least not on the ministerial level, until September or perhaps an even later date.

In an interview with MAY weekly, published today, Kamal Hasan 'Ali referred to the Israeli elections at the end of June, saying that any new cabinet coming to power in Israel will need a period of time to put its house in order and devise its own working methods--be it a new or old cabinet, a government coalition or something else. For this reason it will take some time before the negotiations can be resumed.

Responding to a question on what Egypt desires from Israel in light of the forthcoming elections and the next Israeli Government, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: The Israeli people, on the whole, want a just and comprehensive peace. This is reassuring for us because any future Israeli Government will have to respond to the Israeli people's wishes, particularly since we do not deny Israel any guarantees. We believe that the best guarantee for Israel's security is resolving the Palestinian problem and not suspending or delaying the security measures so as to render the Palestinian issue meaningless by occupying more territories or establishing additional settlements. He said that experience has proved that military positions or military force will not guarantee security as much as peaceful coexistence among peoples and the amicable resolution of problems.

In the interview with the MAY newspaper Kamal Hasan 'Ali says that the United States fully supports Egypt in its interpretation of the second part of the Camp David accord, pertaining to the Palestinian issue. It both denounces the establishment of settlements and undoubtedly also denounces what Israel practices in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza. All this comes within the framework of the political aspect of Egypt's relations with the United States.

He added: The United States, on the other hand, realizes that from a military viewpoint Egypt is not just one of the main pillars but is the main pillar in the process of establishing peace in the Middle East. For example, Egypt's joint defense agreement with Sudan opens vistas for a constructive joint military cooperation in deterring any aggression on either country.

This is in addition to Egypt's continuous commitment to the collective Arab security document and its permanent readiness to give any form of military aid requested by the Arab states.

He said: This has prompted Egypt to grant some facilities to the United States to come to the rescue of any of the Arab states, at their request. He added that all of this is aimed at warding off the perils to which the area is exposed. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is perhaps the best example of the extent of threats to which the area is exposed. There is also the Iraqi-Iranian war and the danger that this may extend to the area and the Western world.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali referred to the Libyan threat inherent in the invasion of Chad and its effects on the neighboring African states and said: This lends importance to Egypt in view of its position and human and military capabilities and in view of the fact that it is a stable country with a firm and stable government. He added: In the light of this, the consistency between the Egyptian and U.S. strategies can be understood. On this basis all that is demanded from the United States is appreciation for Egypt's position, the extent of its influence and the role which it can play in the area and in self-defense against foreign forces and against military inteference. We believe that this has been taken into full consideration by the U.S. officials and has actually been confirmed by all the decisions taken by the Carter administration, and supported by the Reagan administration. This has become clear from the size of the military and economic loans and grants that were given to Egypt during one of the congressional sessions.

On his views and comment on former Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's statements pertaining to the declaration of unilateral autonomy, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: The importance and seriousness of Dayan's statements are linked with the extent of Israel commitment indicated by its unilateral actions: 1) Israeli forces withdrawal; 2) removal of some settlements: 3) the extent in the handing over of lands--state lands and the lands of those who left after 1967; and 4) defining the area necessary for Israel's security. However, concerning whether a military government's withdrawal takes place without the withdrawal of forces and without the removal of settlements, such a measure will be considered as incomplete and unacceptable by the Palestinians and against the spirit of Camp David, which stipulated the withdrawal of the government and military forces to defined security points.

To a question of what Egypt wanted from the Arab world, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: What we demand from the Arab world is a great deal: We demand from the Arab world more understanding of the peacetime strategic dimensions of warding off external dangers from the Arab states; we demand from the Arab states more understanding for the peace process and for the need for its continuation one way or another toward a just and comprehensive solution in the end; we demand more understanding for Egypt's role in the Arab world as a factor of unity of destiny, and not only as a factor of unity of destiny but also of security for the Arab states. He added: More understanding is demanded from the Arab states of the fact that the disputes that erupt among them will weaken the Arab stance as a whole with regard to solving all the problems of the Arab and Islamic world. Furthermore, I want from the Arab states more control of their potential, coherence and integration to enable them to become self-sufficient in many things--even in their daily subsistence. The control of these potentials is the duty of these states, and their failure to do so will be considered negligence toward all of them.

On Egypt's stance on the sale of U.S. weapons to Saudi Arabia on one hand and Israel's reaction to it on the other, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: There is no doubt that Egypt, as has happened when the Arab Gulf coordination conferences took place, welcomes everything that will strengthen the Arab states because any strength added to any Arab country will strengthen the Arab world, and, therefore, we also fully welcome any support given to Saudi Arabia because it will be a strengthening of the Arab homeland as a whole.

However, regarding the Israeli reaction, it must be firmly established with Israel that there will be no peace without Egypt and no war without Egypt and, so long as we have taken the road of peace, the strengthening of any Arab states will only be aimed at resisting any external interference in the area.

MAY SAYS 'ARAFAT BEHIND BREZHNEV MIDEAST PROPOSAL

LD160959 Cairo MAY in Arabic 9 Mar 81 p 1

[Unattributed report: "'Arafat Behind Brezhnev's Proposal for an International Conference"]

[Text] MAY has learned from reliable Palestinian sources that Soviet President Brezhnev's proposal to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East was inspired by Yasir 'Arafat personally. 'Arafat exerted continuous pressure on Moscow so that it would make this announcement on the call for the conference at this time in particular in order to remove the PLO from Syria's control and because of Syria's refusal to allow the Palestinians to take part in any peace negotiations.

ROMANIAN, EGYPTIAN MINISTERS DISCUSS COOPERATION

AU151842 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1820 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (AGERPRES)--Virgil Trofin, Romanian deputy prime minister and minister of mining, oil and geology, had a working interview with Sulayman Mutawalli, Egyptian minister of transport and telecommunications, during the proceedings of the joint Romanian-Egyptian Governmental Commission. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the development of the cooperation between the relevant ministries of the Socialist Republic of Romania and the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The expansion of this cooperation in 1981 and in the ensuing 5 years was agreed upon.

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS OTRAG MISSILE TESTS IN LIBYA

LD171116 Hamburg DPA in German 1014 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv, 17 Mar (DPA)--The Egyptian Government has protested to the Federal Republic against the development of German missiles in Libya and described it as a "serious danger to peace in the Near East." Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali also stated in an interview with the Israeli paper MA'ARIV today that his government could not simply accept the series of missile tests being conducted in the Libyan desert by the German missile test company OTRAG. 'Ali said the statements made by the missile producers regarding an exclusively civil application for the projectiles were implausible.

TURKEY JOINS LEAGUE OF ISLAMIC, ARAB PEOPLES

LD171013 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Turkey has joined the Constituent Committee of the League of Islamic and Arab Peoples and will be represented by six members representing Turkish public and official organizations. This brings the total number of Islamic and Arab peoples represented in the constituent committee to 17 Asian and African peoples. The number of Islamic societies represented in the Constituent Committee has reached 50 from different world countries. Dr Sayyid Nawfal said that the league is also cooperating with other Islamic societies which have not yet joined the constituent committee so as to unify action through the coordination of views, which is the correct way to establish an Islamic cooperation in the various fields.

HAMMADI'S LONDON PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED

LD131129 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Mar 81 p 1

[By Wafa'i Diyab]

[Excerpts] London--Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi has asserted that military escalation between Iraq and Iran in the spring is likely, but this depends on the attitude Iran adopts toward war and peace.

Replying to a question from ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT at a press conference in London yesterday at the end of his official visit to Britain he said: We believe that the Iranians will try to launch a second military attack during this time. This will be an opportunity to make them understand that peace is better for them than war. We are ready for anything.

In evaluating the military situation there, Hammadi said: I cannot be specific about the situation but what I can say is that entering Abadan is militarily possible, although we have not yet decided on it. We are now evaluating the whole military situation, which includes entering Abadan or anywhere else.

The Iraqi minister affirmed that the war with Iran will not stop until Iran recognizes Iraq's full sovereignty over Shatt al-'Arab. He said that the war might continue for a long time if Iran remains intransigent.

Replying to another question from ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT regarding Islamic mediation and the possibilities of renewing it, the Iraqi foreign minister said: Any proposals rejected by one side will not achieve their underlying purpose unless they are again accepted. But I cannot say that the Islamic mediation has failed. He said that he has no knowledge of new Islamic mediation since the previous mediation has not yet failed.

The Iraqi minister said that his talks with the British have dealt with several matters, including the strengthening of relations between the two countries. He said: Agreement has been reached on strengthening these relations in the economic and political field and we will shortly see the signing of the first technical and economic agreement, which will be the basis of cooperation in the future. On the political side the talks dealt with several subjects, the most important of which was the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Arab-European dialogue. The results were very fruitful. I cannot say that we agreed on all the points but we agreed on most of the points, particularly the important ones.

Hammadi was then asked whether it is true that Iraq has obtained arms from the East European countries. He replied: When a country is in a state of war it is natural for it to buy arms anywhere in order to bolster its strength. This is quite obvious. The only place from which we do not purchase arms is Israel. But I can assure you that we have not received arms from the Soviet Union since the outbreak of war with Iran.

Hammadi added: With regard to relations with the Soviet Union, they are absolutely unchanged. Although it may be true that we have sometimes differed with it or with other countries, this does not mean that we have changed our basic stands.

With regard to relations with the United States Hammadi said: We have no diplomatic relations with it at present and there are currently no plans to restore them, unless Washington changes its attitude toward the crisis in the area. But this does not mean that the relations will remain as they are now.

MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON HAMMADI'S VISITS

JN141617 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1435 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA)--Iraq and Britain have expressed the desire to promote and deepen bilateral cooperation in the economic, scientific, technical and cultural fields. A press statement issued here today by the Foreign Ministry on the results of Dr Sa'dun Hammadi's visits to Britain and Portugal stated that the Iraqi and British sides stressed the need to complete the necessary procedures for signing an agreement for bilateral economic and technical cooperation.

The statement cited Dr Hammadi's talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Lord Carrington, secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, saying these talks dealt with bilateral relations, several Arab and international issues and Arab-European dialogue. The statement described Dr Hammadi's talks with the British officials as fruitful, friendly and candid.

The statement added that Dr Hammadi briefed the British officials on the latest developments in the war with Iran and explained this war's background and causes, holding Iran completely responsible for its continuation.

The Iraqi foreign minister stressed the need to remove the region from international conflict and zones of hegemony, warning of the repercussions of increasing the foreign military presence in it.

The statement pointed out that the Iraqi side affirmed its country's firm stand on refusing to recognize the Zionist entity and its stand against capitulatory schemes, adherence to the Baghdad summit resolutions and support for the Palestinian people's struggle and for these people's right to determine their fate, return to their homeland and establish their independent state on Palestinian soil.

The Iraqi side also expressed conviction in the need to reach a permanent formula that would facilitate the process of Arab-European dialogue and maintain its activity.

The statement said that the official delegation accompanying Dr Hammadi also held a series of talks with the British side which dealt with several practical and detailed issues within the framework of bilateral relations and to guarantee the practical requirements for promoting and expanding the scopes of these relations.

The press statement added that during his visit to Portugal, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi held comprehensive talks with the Portuguese officials. The talks were held in an atmosphere of amity, trust and understanding during which the various spheres of bilateral relations were discussed. The two sides also considered the ways that are capable of further widening and developing these relations. The two sides agreed to prepare for the signing of a comprehensive agreement for joint cooperation in the various economic, commercial, scientific, cultural and technical spheres.

The press statement pointed out that Minister Hammadi had an audience with Portuguese President Antonio dos Santos Ramalho Eanes and acquainted him with the recent developments in the war with Iran as well as with the background and the reasons of this war.

The press statement also said that the members of Minister Hammadi's delegation held further talks with the Portuguese officials on the practical and detailed issues related to the development of bilateral relations. During the visit the two sides signed an agreement for cooperation in tourism.

Minister Hammadi began a 3-day visit to the United Kingdom on 9 March. He then started a 2-day visit to Portugal on 11 March. These two visits came within the framework of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry's plan to strengthen Iraq's relations with various world states.

'AZIZ INTERVIEWED ON ARMS SOURCES, OTHER ISSUES

For a Vienna DIE PRESSE report on its "exclusive interview" with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz which was granted during his 10-13 March visit to Austria and which contains his views on arms sources in the context of "military cooperation" with Austria, his assurances of continued oil supplies to Austria and a reiteration of Iraq's position on the war with Iran and superpower involvement in the Middle East, see page E 1 of the 13 March Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

YAR PRESIDENT SALIH VISITS BAGHDAD FOR TALKS

Arrival Report

JN150832 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)--YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih arrived here today at the head of a delegation on an official visit to Iraq at the invitation of President Saddam Husayn. The delegation accompanying the YAR president consists of 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, vice president; Lt Col 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Barati, chief of staff; 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr, foreign minister; Muhammad Hizan Shuhati, economy and industry minister; Muhammad Salim Basindwah, People's Constituent Assembly member; and several ministers and Yemeni officials.

The YAR president was received by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, several members of the Revolution Command Council and several ministers.

Initial Talks

JN151532 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)--The Iraqi and YAR sides headed by Presidents Saddam Husayn and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih held a meeting here today, during which they discussed bilateral relations and the means to develop them.

At the outset of the meeting President Saddam Husayn welcomed the guest president and his delegation, reiterating Iraq's appreciation for the YAR Government's and people's stand on the Iraqi-Iranian war. He explained that Iraq was forced to wage this war in defense of its land and waters. Addressing the YAR side President Saddam Husayn said: You have supported your brothers and have deeply expressed in practice the meaning of affiliation to the Arab nation. What the brother gives is not measured in quantity but rather in spirit. We want you to know that our victories on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland are yours and that these victories express the meaning of the steadfastness of Arab man. Your continued support for your brothers--support expressed on many occasions and in many ways--confirms your deep affiliation to your nation and your ties with your brothers in Iraq.

President Saddam Husayn stressed the importance of joint Arab action based on brotherhood, common fate and common future. He then reviewed the historical stages of the Arab-Persian struggle and the anti-Arab Persian stands throughout history.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih expressed his thanks to President Saddam Husayn and the Revolution Command Council [RCC] members for the warm hospitality accorded them. He conveyed the greetings of the Yemeni people and armed forces to Iraq's leadership and people, praising their steadfastness in relation to the challenges facing every patriotic Arab. He said: Our support for Iraq's steadfastness and of its struggle in defense of its land, sovereignty, dignity and sanctities is guided by the fact that Iraq is defending all Arab rights and is based on our conviction and faith. He added that the Yemeni people are supporting the fraternal Iraqi people to enable them to regain their legitimate rights and satisfy their just demands regarding their land and waters and to defend their sovereignty, which is the sovereignty of the Arab nation.

The Yemeni president lauded Iraq's victories over the Persian aggressors. He also lauded Iraq's gains in all aspects of life. He expressed his appreciation for the developed fraternal relations between Iraq and YAR thanks to the vigilance of the two leaderships and peoples.

Attending the talks on the Iraqi side were 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman; Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, vice president; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister; 'Adnan Khayrallah, defense minister; Sa'dun Ghaydan, minister of transport and communications; Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, RCC secretary general; Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, foreign minister; and the Iraqi ambassador to the YAR.

On the YAR side the talks were attended by 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, vice president; 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr, foreign minister; Muhammad Salim Basindawah, People's Constituent Assembly member; Muhammad Hizan ash-Shuhayti, economic and industry minister; and Lt Col 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Barti, the chief of staff.

Foreign Ministers' Meeting

JN151746 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi this afternoon received YAR Foreign Minister 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr. The two ministers discussed bilateral cooperation in particular, inter-Arab relations in general and the topics on the agenda of the next Arab League meeting.

Dr Hammadi explained Iraq's stand on the conflict with Iran and Iraq's initiatives to find a peaceful and just solution that would guarantee Iraq's rights over its land and waters. He also discussed the efforts by international and regional bodies to solve the conflict.

Decoration Award

JN161029 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the armed forces, last night decorated his brother, YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, with the Ar-Rafidayn Military Medal, first class, in appreciation of his courageous and principled stands on Arab rights.

In a speech during the decoration ceremony President Saddam Husayn expressed the pride and appreciation of the Iraqi Government, people and army for Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's pan-Arab stands on the battle of honor and justice which Iraq is waging against Persian aggression. President Saddam Husayn said that these stands are highly appreciated by the Iraqi leadership, government and people, pointing out that the Arab nation is in need of such noble and courageous stands.

In a speech after the decoration ceremony Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih valued Iraq's courageous stands on Arab rights. He expressed his own pride and that of the Yemeni people and government in these stands, asserting that they express the Arab nation's will to build a bright future.

Salih Departure Statement

JN160913 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has said that his visit to Iraq comes within the framework of consultations with President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi Government to deepen the existing fraternal cooperation between the two countries.

In a statement upon his departure at dawn today, he said: During this visit we held fraternal talks dealing with bilateral relations and ways to promote them in the interest of the Arab people in the two countries.

We also discussed developments in the Arab-Zionist conflict and ways to bolster the Palestinian people's struggle under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, to confront the plots they are facing, particularly the continued aggression against southern Lebanon and the Zionist enemy government's settlement policy and its decision to annex Jerusalem. In this respect we stressed the importance of coordination between the two countries in international conferences and forums, particularly regarding the proposals raised in the various initiatives, in a manner that safeguards the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

President 'Ali Abdallah Salih praised Iraq's stand in defense of its land, sovereignty, dignity and holy places, saying: Iraq is defending all the Arab rights. He reiterated the Yemeni people's support for the Iraqi people to regain their inalienable rights and just demands in their land and waters, praising Iraq's victories against the Persian aggressors. He also praised Iraq's response to and cooperation with the good offices exerted by the Islamic Conference Organization, the nonaligned countries and international organizations to find a peaceful solution to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict in a manner that guarantees legitimate pan-Arab and national rights and the principles of sovereignty.

He called on Iranian officials to take positive steps in line with those taken by Iraqi officials, epitomized by their response to the international efforts exerted to stop the fighting.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LEAVES FOR GDR, HUNGARY

JN160939 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Mar (INA)--Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister and Revolution Command Council member, left for Berlin today at the head of an official delegation on a several-day visit to the GDR and Hungary. He said that his talks with officials of both countries would aim at developing bilateral relations and the possibility of expanding them, particularly in the economic and technical fields.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that he will hold meetings aimed at signing new contracts to implement several projects in the Iraqi national development plan.

The accompanying delegation comprises Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister; Planning Minister Dr Taha Ibrahim al-'Abdallah; the under secretaries of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Industry and Minerals; and several other officials.

DEFENSE MINISTER VIEWS IRAN WAR, SOVIET SUPPORT

LD161155 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 13 Mar 81 pp 28-30

[Interview granted by Iraqi Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah to Huda al-Husayni in Baghdad--date not specified]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: Is there an international red light that bans you from entering Abadan?

Khayrallah: There is no red, yellow or green light. Entering Abadan depends on our will to make a decision and to shoulder our responsibility to the people and history. We are anxious to maintain our freedom to express our will. But we have no complexes about the effects of the international game and deal with it in a manner that satisfies our conscience and national independence. Certainly this does not please other powers, which I do not wish to name. But a country with an area and population like ours, in the view of the major powers, is not to be allowed to be independent in the manner advocated by the [Ba'th] Party leadership.

I believe that the reason why the major powers are upset by our attitude toward the war is due to this thinking and not to other considerations of their own. Therefore, they want to make us pay the price. And we accept. The major powers may be able to harm us but they definitely cannot encircle us.

AL-HAWADITH: How can they harm you?

Khayrallah: For example, the Soviet bloc is the basic source of our armament and we have friendly relations with it. The Soviet Union, as a superpower, has its own considerations. Maybe what pleases us does not please it. In a war, in a hot spot like the Middle East, such as is taking place between us and Iran, it is probably unacceptable that there should not be good coordination with our friend the Soviet Union. For this reason it might be upset in one way or another and it might also have reservations about the extent to which it will go in supporting us under its international obligations.

AL-HAWADITH: Has the Soviet Union abandoned Iraq during the war?

Khayrallah: To be honest, it has neither supported us nor abandoned us. The Soviet Union declared that it adopts a neutral stand, which means not supporting either party. We are the party that is more likely to receive support because we import most of our arms from it and because of the friendship treaty that links us to it. There are other facts as well, including the fact that Iran has common borders with the Soviet Union and under the shah Iran was a source of concern for the Soviet command because it was a power belonging to the CENTO alliance which was an extension of NATO.

AL-HAWADITH: The Iranians reiterate that they reject dialogue as long as Iraqi forces are on Iranian territory. Have you asked whether they mean by that to recognize your territories which you have restored provided that Iraqi forces withdraw from the more distant territories which they have reached?

Khayrallah: We have asked them to define the borders of their territories and ours but so far they have not answered. But I say now, as the president said several days ago, we are ready to withdraw when Iran recognizes our legitimate rights under the international border treaties. We are not demanding much. The last treaty between us was the 1975 treaty. Iranian Chief of Staff General Fallahi officially announced that they do not recognize the 1975 Algiers treaty. We have recorded evidence of instances and official statements in which the Iranians announced their renunciation of the 1975 treaty. Indeed the term "buried" has become the word used to describe this treaty. Why should we therefore adhere to this treaty as long as they reject it. We repudiated it following the last official statement on behalf of the Iranian Government made by General Fallahi.

AL-HAWADITH: No sooner had President Saddam Husayn warned that Iraq would occupy new towns, than 'Izzat Ibrahim [deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council] went to Amman. Was the purpose of the visit to put your allies in the picture or to discuss future military coordination with Jordan?

Khayrallah: 'Izzat Ibrahim's visit is part of the constant contact. This time the visit was for the purpose of obtaining reassurance about the Jordanian situation because we understood that tension was building between Jordan and Syria following the kidnapping of the Jordanian charge in Lebanon, Hisham al-Muhaysin. We felt that because of this escalation in the situation we should make our views known at the highest level.

The charge was kidnapped and taken hostage to secure the release of the [Syrian] officer and his men. We were wary that this might lead to a new crisis between Jordan and Syria, which was the reason why 'Izzat Ibrahim carried out this visit. It had nothing to do with military coordination.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 277

JN171747 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Communique No 277 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 16 March 1981]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following are the results of the activities carried out by our armed forces last night and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Six were killed and one infantry position, one vehicle loaded with hardware, one excavator and one observation post were destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.
B. An enemy troop concentration was sighted near our forces' positions in the Gilan-e Gharb area. Our forces commenced artillery and mortar fire and forced the enemy to retreat, leaving behind 14 dead.
C. One infantry position and three observation posts were destroyed opposite our forces in the Sayf Sa'd area.
D. Four were killed in the Mehran area.
E. Three were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the Dezful area.
F. One observation post was destroyed in the Shush area.
G. Our frontline forces raided enemy positions in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area, killing 11 men and destroying a vehicle loaded with hardware. Our forces also attacked an enemy concentration in the same area and forced it to flee, leaving behind 13 dead and 1 vehicle.
H. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite our forces' positions in the Abadan area. Our forces attacked the enemy with various weapons and forced him to flee, leaving behind 34 dead. Our forces opened artillery and mortar fire on enemy positions and personnel in the same area, killing 12 men and destroying 2 tanks, 3 vehicles--2 of which were loaded with hardware--4 guns and 1 excavator.

Thus, total known enemy losses are: 97 killed, 2 infantry positions, 2 tanks, 6 vehicles, 4 guns, 2 excavators and 6 observation posts.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Five martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One personnel carrier and one vehicle were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 March 1981

COMMUNIST PARTY CLAIMS 'DOZENS' ARRESTED

LD131105 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 6 Mar 81 p 10

[Unattributed report: "Baghdad: Communists Arrested in Dozens"]

[Text] The Iraqi Communist Party announces the arrest, mainly in the Province of Kurdistan, of several dozen militants. Among these is Na'ib 'Abdallah, member of the party leadership. The arrested Communists have been transferred to camps where torture is practiced, often accompanied by...disappearances. This is, the Iraqi Communist Party declares, "a new link in the chain of arrests which have been hitting Communists for over 2 years."

AMMAN REPORTS KING HUSAYN'S NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW

JN161324 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has stated that, without the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian cause, peace and security in the Middle East will never take place. In an interview with the U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK published today, his majesty added that settlement of the Palestinian issue will unquestionably bring peace and security to the area. In reply to a question about Jordan's rejection of the so-called Jordanian option, his majesty said: We in Jordan understand that the Palestinian people alone, and no other, are in the right and are the only party responsible for determining their fate on their soil, and that no other party, whichever it may be, may assume this right on behalf of the Palestinian people.

His majesty expressed the hope that the new U.S. administration's policy will be based on objectivity and reality when dealing with the problems of the area and taking into consideration human values and principles of justice and equality in which the American people believe.

His majesty stressed the importance of the European role in seeking a just solution in the Middle East proceeding from the historical and geographical links and mutual interests between the Arab world and Europe. His Majesty King Husayn also pointed out the importance of the Soviet Union's participation in the peace efforts. He said that during his forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union, he will discuss with Soviet leaders all issues clearly and frankly.

On Saudi Arabia obtaining sophisticated F-15 planes, his majesty said: Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries have the right to build up their intrinsic strength and to obtain sophisticated equipment and weapons to defend their interests and personality when facing foreign dangers and challenges.

SYRIA REPORTEDLY GIVES IRAN INFORMATION ON IRAQ

JN151000 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Mar 81 p 16

[Text] A former high-level Iranian economic official has stated that a Syrian military delegation had provided Iran with military information about Iraq. The official added: This information concerned Iraqi oil, military and economic establishments. The Iranian official said that among the delegations which visited Tehran in February of last year were two ranking Syrian Air Force officers. He added that, in the wake of the Syrian delegation's departure, he had been instructed to transfer 217 million Lebanese pounds, approximately $75 million to the account of the Syrian Air Force as a reward for its cooperation with the Iranian Air Force and that the transfer took place through the Bank of Lebanon on 14 March 1980 under account No (106-A).

JORDAN TIMES VIEWS KING'S PLANNED VISIT TO USSR

JN140730 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Mar 81 p 2

[Editorial: "Welcome Back"]

[Text] The announcement that His Majesty King Husayn has accepted an invitation to visit the Soviet Union, which will probably take place towards the end of May, takes on special significance now that attempts to find a peaceful settlement in the Middle East are at a virtual standstill.

Jordan's position on international efforts to end Israel's occupation of Arab territories was based, in the first instance, on the necessity for the participation, in any fruitful negotiations, of the Soviet Union and the United Nations--in addition, of course, to the United States, the parties directly involved in the conflict and other groups.

Following the failure of the U.S.-sponsored Camp David approach to the conflict, the dangers of the American monopoly on peace-seeking efforts are beginning to mushroom. Jordan's welcoming of a proposal by Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev last month for an international conference to break the deadlock in attempts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict, and King Husayn's forthcoming visit to Moscow, can result in a fresh Arab-international initiative that would add momentum to any European moves aimed at laying the foundations for a strong alternative to the Camp David approach.

Any revival--this time with strong international support--of the political momentum destroyed by President as-Sadat's 1977 visit to Israel would be a great political victory for opponents of the Camp David formula. And to abort any attempt at such a revival, Israel has been exerting American support for the Zionist state's definition of peace in the region, which, however it is viewed, revolves around the realisation of one of Israel's long-term ambitions--legitimising continued occupation of Arab territories in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights.

Before President Reagan was inaugurated, Israel objected to his choices for some top positions; in the early days of his term, Israeli spokesmen condemned his pronouncements that Jewish settlements in the occupied territories could be provocative; when a State Department spokesman described Major Sa'd Haddad's action in southern Lebanon as criminal, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was not pleased.

The climax of the "tame Reagan" campaign came when Israel raised havoc over U.S. arms deliveries to Saudi Arabia.

A return to international involvement in the peace-seeking process in the region, by re-introducing the Soviet Union as an equal partner to the United States, can be a good start towards putting efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region on the right track again. And King Husayn's talks in Moscow are bound to touch on the suggestions.

KHADDAM'S REMARKS ON JORDAN, VISIT TO UAE ATTACKED

JN152034 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Station commentary: "Syrian Diplomacy in the Service of Crime and Terror"]

[Excerpts] The Syrian information media have carried an expected statement by Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to the effect that Jordanian intelligence forces kidnapped Hisham al-Muhaysin from the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut. We do not want to discuss the validity of this allegation, which incriminates its source, a tool for a regime which deals with its people by means of murder, terror and collective suppression.

What is 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who seeks to deceive the people by alleging that Jordan kidnapped one of its own diplomats--doing today in the UAE? Every UAE citizen knows of 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's task in the UAE despite his fabricated statement that his visit is for the purpose of promoting bilateral cooperation and Arab interests. The truth is that he went to the UAE to uphold the terror practiced by the Syrian regime against the Syrian citizens who oppose it just as it does inside Syria. Syrian diplomacy, represented by the Syrian foreign minister, is working openly to put pressure on the UAE to release a gang of killers ordered by the Syrian regime to assassinate a number of Syrian citizens working in the UAE and who were assassinated when they entered a restaurant in Dubayy.

This in simple words is 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's task in the UAE. This is the task of the Syrian foreign minister, who seeks to deceive by statements that do not cover the smell of crime which emanates from the regime's practices and murders committed against the Syrian people and the Arab nation. We ask how can a self-respecting state use diplomacy to facilitate the tasks of terrorist organs and to protect murderers who committed their crime openly? We who understand the Syrian regime do not find this behavior strange, coming from a regime which has established terrorist organizations to serve its foreign policy.

SARKIS MEETS WITH ADF, ARMY COMMANDERS 17 MAR

NC170937 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] At 0930 today President Sarkis held a meeting attended by commander of the Arab Deterrent Forces Brig Gen Sami al-Khatib. The conferees reviewed the security situation and the setbacks that took place in the last 2 days. The talks also dealt with the measures and actions adopted for tackling the situation.

The president later met with army commander Gen Victor Khuri. They discussed the status of the military establishment and the current contacts for implementing what has been agreed upon in the Damascus summit.

At 1000 President Sarkis met with former President Charles Hill to discuss the current situation.

HADDAD DEPLORES SYRIAN PRESENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON

NC170811 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Free Lebanon commander Major Haddad has commented on some current topics. He has said: First of all, we are very sorry for those members of the Nigerian contingent and the Lebanese Army detachment who were hurt in Al-Qantarah yesterday. At the same time, we wish to draw attention to the fact that we have used all means of persuasion with the UN forces and the army detachment in our attempts as much as possible to avoid any harm to any of them. However, regrettably, none of them tried to understand our position. In any event, we cannot, in any form whatsoever, bargain over the security of our area, because Al-Wantarah has been and continues to be an important part of free Lebanon, and we will not permit any army that carries out Syrian commands to be deployed in it so that it will be turned into a saboteurs' den as has been the case in Yatar, Haris, Tulin, Kawkaba and the other areas where the army is deployed.

If the Lebanese authority is earnestly concerned about the south, then it should deploy its army in the place of the saboteurs and the Syrians in Tyre, Sidon, An-Nabatiyah, Al-'Ayshiyah, Jazzin and elsewhere. Furthermore, the Lebanese authority must secure the road from B'abda to the south passing through Ad-Damur. However, if the aim of sending the army [to the south] is to annihilate free Lebanon in implementation of [Syrian President] Hafiz al-Asad's wishes, then we will absolutely not allow this because the destruction of free Lebanon means the consequent annihilation of all Lebanon and its annexation to Syria. Not a single Lebanese soldier shall approach our borders before the last occupying Syrian soldier withdraws from all Lebanon.

KHADDAM TO CONVEY MESSAGES TO GULF LEADERS

JN170935 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Damascus this morning on a tour of several fraternal Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain, to convey messages from President Hafiz al-Asad to the leaders of these states.

TISHRIN VIEWS U.S. MIDEAST POLICY PRIORITIES

JN151920 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Mar 81

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "The Rejected U.S. Trusteeship," the newspaper TISHRIN writes:

The Palestinian problem constitutes the main obstacle on the path of those Arab states desirous of siding openly with the U.S. camp. The continued focus on this problem seriously hampers the U.S. attempts to mobilize the area against what the Americans call the Soviet infiltration of and threat to the region. Therefore, the capitulationists and those whose hearts are with the enemy against the nation say that the Palestinian problem must be liquidated at any price and in whatever form.

The newspaper continues: This is what As-Sadat and his supporters are persistently calling for. This is what King Husayn is working for through various methods. Saddam Husayn is paving the way for such liquidation, preparing the atmosphere by creating a struggle with the Iranian revolution and an Arab-Persian struggle to replace the Arab-Israeli struggle. There are also people who secretly encourage the capitulatory approaches and support the defeatists, who are accomplices with the enemy in the Arab arena. The new U.S. administration is working in the same direction of relegating the Palestinian question and the Palestinian people's rights to the bottom of the priorities in the U.S. Middle East priorities and by placing alleged Soviet infiltration of the region at the top of its Middle East priorities. What is being said about finding a settlement to the Palestinian problem gives the impression that this problem is a simple secondary issue and that it is an issue among neighboring states like border differences which may be bypassed, postponed or solved by concessions from one or more of the disputants.

TISHRIN adds: In their attempts to solve or liquidate this problem, the Americans would open for themselves a door for the establishment of military pacts which would protect the imperialist process of looting the Arabs' oil wealth. The Palestinian problem does not constitute a border issue, a water source dispute or differences on dividing a continental shelf. For the Arab nation the Palestinian problem is an issue of existence. It is an issue of destiny, of freedom, independence and national will.

TISHRIN goes on to say: The Zionist entity was planted by world imperialism in the heart of the Arab homeland to sever its eastern part from its western part and to permanently threaten the national liberation movements, the social progress and the pan-Arab unity. The Zionist entity is not like other world states although it has belonged to the United Nations since 1948. It is a racist, reactionary, aggressive and alien entity. It does not recognize the UN principles or international law.

TISHRIN concludes: In his speech on the 8 March anniversary, President al-Asad made it clear that placing our cause under the U.S. umbrella means weakening and belittling our cause. This would, to a great extent, lead to losing the support of the socialist bloc and the nonaligned countries. We must not and should not belittle our cause because it is a great cause and must remain a focal point for the whole world.

SHAMIR SAYS U.S. SALE CASTS SHADOW ON RELATIONS

TA161605 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Excerpt] At the Knesset today, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir came out against the planned sale of offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia by the United States and West European countries. Sooner or later, the foreign minister said, this would provoke a flare-up in our region. Delivering a political statement on behalf of the government, Minister Shamir added that compensatory solutions would be ineffective because Israel would not be able to stand up to the armament race in the wake of the arms deliveries to Saudi Arabia. Our correspondent, Moshe Hakohen, reports on the debate at the Knesset:

[Begin recording] [Hakohen] The government's main purpose in initiating the debate was to express Israel's official objection to the supply of U.S. arms to Saudi Arabia from the Knesset podium. After reviewing the pro-Israeli statements he heard during his latest visit to Washington, Shamir added:

[Shamir] A shadow has been cast on the relations of friendship and understanding between the United States and Israel by the U.S. decision to sell sophisticated auxiliary equipment for the F-15's and four AWACS aircraft to Saudi Arabia, as reported in the last few days. The sale of this equipment to Saudi Arabia should be seen in the broader context of the arms race in the Middle East. Recently we have been witnessing the enormous quantities of arms of all types, including the most sophisticated ones, that are flowing into the countries of this area from every possible source--the United States, the Soviet Union and the European countries. The scope and grade of sophistication of the arms coming in must raise concern and alarm among all the elements seeking stability and tranquility in our region, a region that has had its share of comflicts and upheavals.

[Hakohen] The foreign minister recalled that the decision to supply the F-15's with offensive equipment constituted a breah of a promise given to the U.S. Congress by the previous administration. Shamir noted Saudi Arabia's role in all the wars against Israel and its aggressive positions against Israel. Shamir added:

[Shamir] I must point out that the U.S. leaders--the President, the secretary of state and the secretary of defense--believe that it is possible to balance the security damage inflicted by the supply of these arms by supplying Israel with weapon systems under special terms. To our regret, we must state that we do not regard this as a solution or an answer. The State of Israel will not be capable, not only from the economic point of view, to stand up to this horrible race. It is our duty to call on the Government of the United States and other countries to put an end to this unrestrained flow of destructive weapons which, sooner or later, will provoke a dangerous flare-up. [end recording]

TZIPORI COMMENTS ON U.S.-SAUDI AWACS ISSUE

Television Interview

TA131920 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Interview of Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori by military correspondent 'Amiram Nir on 13 March--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Deputy Defense Minister, the Cabinet this week resolved again to express its opposition to the U.S.-Saudi arms deal--the supply of offensive equipment for their F-15's--and now we already hear from Washington a report, which has not been denied, that the United States will also supply AWACS planes to the Saudis. Are we not losing the struggle, the campaign, against the supply of sophisticated weaponry to the Arab states?

[Answer] First of all, we shall have to continue the struggle, because if the report on their latest move, on these spy planes, is correct, this will be a very dangerous move for Israel. In fact, we will be totally exposed to forces hostile to the State of Israel. We shall have to deal with this using all means and all channels. We have a problem which is a cardinal one regarding U.S. arms supplies and I would say that there is here a clash of interests and we shall have to see what means we can use to cope with this.

[Question] You say that we will oppose the AWACS deal vigorously. What does this mean? Israel put up relaitvely quiet, relatively low key opposition to the F-15 deal, and even came in for criticism from some of its friends in the United States. Is there any substantive difference as far as Israel is concerned regarding the AWACS deal?

[Answer] In my estimation, the AWACS deal is the most serious one there could be from Israel's point of view and we shall have to consider what steps to take. Above all, however, we must consider which steps will produce the optimal results.

[Question] Do you believe that a public struggle, making use of Israel's friends in the public, in the Congress and in the administration is the right move in this instance?

[Answer] I do not know. This must be examined closely; but there is no doubt that we will be able to, and we will have to, make use of every friend and make every effort. First of all, however, comes the dialogue with the authorities to try to prevent the deal.

[Question] Do you think there is still a chance of preventing it?

[Answer] I think there are reasonable prospects.

[Question] Mr Tzipori, can one speak of compensation should this deal, like the F-15 deal, in fact be implemented?

[Answer] There is no doubt that we must speak with the Americans about the overall picture of what is happening in the region. The events in the region are gathering momentum and posing considerable dangers for the State of Israel. The Arabs' strength is constantly increasing. We are today poised against countries that are likely to take part in a confrontation with us; we are facing over 30 divisions, over 10,000 tanks, the same number of artillery pieces, a massive anti-aircraft system which virtually closes the skies of the Arab countries, over 2,000 fighter planes, helicopter gunships, and the like. This presents us with a problem that goes beyond compensation; it is no longer a matter of a shipping basket, but a more fundamental and rooted issue which must be dealt with.

[Question] Are you saying that the aid Israel will expect to receive from the United States as a quid pro quo for the deals with Arab countries involving advanced weapons will be mainly in the economic sphere--that is, to enable us to grow stronger economically?

[Answer] We shall request and speak about balance, balance in all spheres. Loans alone--which will emburden Israel with debts for generations, as has been the case in the past--are not good enough. We must see to it that the entire network of relations also enables a manufacturing momentum in Israel.

[Question] Mr Deputy Defense Minister, if Israel does in fact launch a public struggle in the United States against deals such as the AWACS deal--perhaps against this deal itself--is there not a danger that from being a strategic asset, as Israel was recently termed in the United States, Israel will become a burden regarding other strategic ties in the Middle East?

[Answer] There is no doubt that we are caught between poles which have various aspects and this necessitates greater wisdom in our moves. The United States wants to strengthen its footholds in the Mediterranean region both in order to contain the Soviets and to preserve its sources of energy. What we must do is find the best common denominator, one which will not endanger Israel and will not interfere with U.S. moves; it is on this that we shall have to hold talks and to struggle.

[Question] Are you in fact speaking of Israeli integration into the new U.S. strategic deployment here?

[Answer] We will not take a favorable view of Israel's being ignored. I think this would also conflict with what President Reagan said, as well as with remarks by the secretary of state and the secretary of defense.

[Question] How in your estimation can Israel become part of a new U.S. strategic deployment in the Middle East? What can we contribute to the United States?

[Answer] It may be said that in the Middle East region Israel is the most advanced technological country. Its infrastructure--both its production and its maintenance infrastructure--is a Western one, and one which can provide services for Western equipment, particularly U.S. equipment. The caliber of the ammunition and various other means are also identical. This gives plenty of room for cooperation.

[Question] You are in fact speaking of Israel's being a kind of emergency armory and perhaps also an emergency base, for the departure of a U.S. force for emergency objectives in the Middle East?

[Answer] I think that everything situated in Israel will be more secure than in any other country; and if the Soviet Union has managed to do this in Libya and in Syria, there is no reason why we should not also be part of some comprehensive picture.

[Question] Mr Tzipori, you have already met with several members of the new U.S. administration. Is it your impression that on this subject the United States sees eye-to-eye with us?

[Answer] You do not expect me to answer this kind of question. There are many spheres in which we see eye-to-eye but I will not go into details.

[Question] Do you believe that there is place for dialogue on the issues you have just mentioned, in the direction of Israeli integration into the new U.S. strategic deployment?

[Answer] In my estimation, there is place for dialogue in virtually all spheres with the new U.S. administration. We had a dialogue covering extensive areas with the previous administration also; now we can deepen and expand this.

[Question] Is it your personal impression that the best way to hold a dialogue would be in combination with the exertion of public pressure, a public struggle, or using quieter means?

[Answer] We shall have to examine this.

[Question] Mr Deputy Defense Minister, thank you very much.

Later Remarks

TA170701 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori has said that the Western countries are going through a process of dambreaking [as heard] and supplying enormous quantities of sophisticated weapons to countries that declare that their goal is the destruction of Israel.

Tzipori has said that the attempt last night, in a Qol Yisra'el broadcast, by reserve Maj Gen Beni Peled to detract from the value of the AWAC planes was unfounded. Our military correspondent, Shmu'el Tal, spoke with the deputy defense minister:

[Tal] Mordekhay Tzipori said that we should not delude ourselves that the supply of AWAC planes to Saudi Arabia was aimed against the Soviet Union. Israel had no doubt, he said, that these sophisticated systems would be aimed against it. He takes a serious view of the fact that the weapon is actually being sold by the United States, which is considered to be a friend to Israel. The deputy defense minister attacked the remarks made by former air force reserve commander Maj Gen Beni Peled in a Qol Yisra'el interview yesterday, saying that the AWACS, which Peled called flying buses, could be brought down easily.

[Begin recording] [Tzipori] I would advise both former and current commanders not to scorn any bus, particularly if that bus has several modern weapons. Scorn has never contributed to the State of Israel and it seems to me that Beni, who went through the Yom Kippur war, knows that all these things must be taken seriously. [end recording]

[Tal] The deputy defense minister said that the AWACS are a new dimension in the area and if the United States does decide to supply them to Saudi Arabia Israel may be confronted with a serious problem.

A government source told us yesterday that reserve Major General Peled's attempt to detract from the value of the AWACS could make Israel's fight against the deal more difficult and weaken the claims of Israel's friends, who are working in the United States to prevent the dispatch of the planes to Saudi Arabia.

U.S. ARMS SALES, DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE LINKED

TA171030 Jerusalem POST in English 17 Mar 81 pp 1, 2

[By Robert Roserberg]

[Text] The U.S. Government plans an autumn diplomatic initiative in the Middle East and believes weapons sales to Saudi Arabia could be the leverage necessary to bring Riyadh into the peace program.

Diplomatic sources here say the sale of AWACS "flying radar" planes to Saudi Arabia is also a way of getting tne desert kingdom "to foot at least part of the bill" for the U.S. security buildup in the region.

The sources discount--"on purely military, strategic grounds"--the possibility of the Sinai desert becoming a staging ground for U.S. military forces in the Middle East. The sources say Sinai is "too far away" from the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Pakistan--the expected scene of any Soviet thrust toward the Arab oilfields and the Indian ocean.

The Saudis "will never be able to run the AWACS," the sources maintain, emphasizing that U.S. "civilian technicians would operate the planes, the most sophisticated of their kind in the world. The Saudis would, in effect, be paying for the U.S. electronic listening umbrella.

With the Israeli elections in mind, the Reagan administration wants to keep the Israel-Arab conflict on "the back burner," the sources say. Only after the elections, when "the colours of the next government" are known, will Washington be able to consider major policy moves.

But, despite the "back burner" approach, the sources admit the administration is not sitting by idly and is interested in two proposals floated by Israeli politicians for changing the status quo in the West Bank and Gaza.

Under study are MK Moshe Dayan's proposal for a unilateral implementation of autonomy and the idea of Meron Benvenisti, a Knesset candidate of the citizens' rights movement, for "disengagement" from the territories and "reconciliation."

The "autumn initiative" would seek to enlist Saudi support for the peace process. In part it would be aimed at blocking the expected European initiative most observers believe will be forthcoming after British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington takes up the chairmanship of the European Community's Council of Ministers. Carrington's job begins on July 1, the day after the Israeli elections.

With the specific content of the American diplomatic initiative depending on the outcome of the elections, diplomatic sources indicated that there could be changes in the Camp David process.

"Neither the Reagan administration or a Labor government--if elected--have as much invested in Camp David as does the Begin government," said one diplomatic source. Egypt is frustrated by "Israeli inflexibility" at the autonomy negotiating table and would welcome some new initiative, even if it was a departure from the format laid out in Camp David, reports from Cairo say.

One of the key hopes of American policymakers is that the Saudis could bring Jordan's King Husayn into the process. A discreet nod from Saudi Arabia could enable Husayn to enter into the kind of negotiations with Israel that would involve an administrative--if not fully political--compromise on Jerusalem, the sources indicated.

U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has been careful not to link the pending U.S.-Saudi arms deal to Saudi support for the peace process. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres has commented that, if it were up to him, he would seek "political compensation and not necessarily military" if Washington continues its military courting of Riyadh.

That "political compensation," suggest diplomatic sources, could take the form of a U.S. effort, based on a greatly enhanced Washington posture in Riyadh because of the arms sales, to bring the Saudis into the peace process.

CORRESPONDENT INTERVIEWS EGYPT'S BUTRUS GHALI

TA141012 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Report on interview of Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali by Israeli Cairo correspondent Arye Gus at Ghali's office "last week"--recorded]

[Text] Butrus Ghali entered the office, apologized for the delay and got straight down to business. What do you have to ask, he asked me.

I raised the first question: What is your reaction to the prime minister's announcement that Israel will not force itself on anyone to resume the autonomy talks and that Israel, together with the Arabs, can wait?

Butrus Ghali, sitting opposite me, was very alert, and a bit recoiled. He shot his resonses very quickly. It is important, Ghali said, to believe in the attainment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace. As for the ways to attain it, this can either be discussed or put off for a while but it is important that all the parties concerned agree that it is important to attain peace.

Still, I asked, why did Egypt suspend the autonomy talks?

In fact, Ghali replied, we did not suspend them. You have elections coming up and we are not prepared to discuss things with a government that may be replaced in 5 or 6 months. We will resume the talks the moment there is a new government. It is better, he said, not to hold deliberations in an election period.

Is there here no Egyptian intention of discussing things with a government that would be more convenient for Egypt, I asked, adding that it is as if Egypt is thinking: Why do business now, when later we might be able to do better business?

The minister of state leaned forward and replied forcefully:

No, why should things be better afterward?

[Ghali--in English] No, why better the later? There is election, there will be a new administration. If Mr Begin is reelected then we will discuss with Mr Begin; if Mr Peres is elected, then we will discuss with Mr Peres. Why do you want to have so many interpretations that Mr A is better than Mr B or Mr B is better than Mr A? We are negotiating with the Government of Israel.

[Gus--in English] Yes, so if it doesn't matter which government, why wait until later?

[Ghali--in English] Because we cannot have this negotiation in a preelection period.

[Gus] Butrus Ghali strongly rejected the theory I raised that it appears at times that Egypt is trying to influence the Israeli elections. You are mature enough to know what you want, he stated unequivocally. We cannot influence the elections, nor are we interested in doing so. However, we are naturally following the events.

The Egyptian minister of state did not raise any new ideas during the conversation. This is a waiting period in all the sense of the word. We still discussed autonomy. Egypt is not transgressing the Camp David accords, said Ghali, when urging the incorporation of the Palestinians. The Palestinians' confidence must be won and a new political atmosphere must be created in the territories--these are the stages Ghali pointed to. If this is not done, the Palestinians will not participate in the process and without their participation the entire talks would be worthless.

What do you mean by a change in the atmosphere? What steps should be taken, I asked Ghali.

Ghali referred me to long lists he had submitted in the past, involving--in general--the release of political prisoners and granting various political freedoms [to the inhabitants of the territories]. What is important is not the detail, Ghali said, but the new atmosphere in the territories. But here, unfortunately, a totally different atmosphere has been created since you began the negotiations.

[Ghali--in English] What is important is not so much the details but a new atmosphere in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Unfortunately, what happened was a completely different atmosphere since you began these negotiations: certain establishment of settlements, closing a university, putting people in prisons, having curfew on Arab cities--an atmosphere which certainly will never encourage the Palestinians to [have] hope in the future.

[Gus] Dr Ghali mentioned the settlements. The closing of universities, arrests, the imposition of curfews and said that all these do not help establish Palestinian faith.

We then got to the issue of self-determination. Ghali based his remarks on the Camp David agreements, which include many statements to the effect that sooner or later the Palestinians should have the right of self-determination. If a decision is made on the establishment of an independent state, Egypt will support it. If a decision is made on establishing a confederation or a federation with Jordan, this, too, will receive Egypt's support. Butrus Ghali was satisfied with the progress of normalization despite the doubts I expressed. There is no linkage between normalization and autonomy, he noted. Everything proceeds at a satisfactory pace: tourism, participation in congresses, and I am convinced--he added--that we will reach full normalization between the two peoples and the two countries.

Yes, I added, but there is asymmetry in the proportions.

[Ghali--in English] I agree. I agree because it is normal, because there is a big asymmetry in a country of 40 million and a country of 3 million. There is a big asymmetry in a country which is involved in African problems, nonaligned problems, Arab problems and a country which does not have this kind of involvement. So you cannot have a kind of complete equality, which means that if you have received 10 Israeli tourists you must receive 10 Egyptian tourists.

[Gus] But the proportions are exactly the opposite, I persisted: 30,000 Israeli tourists versus 1,500 Egyptians.

The Egyptians are completely at liberty to go to Israel, Ghali hurried to explain, and if they do not go it is because they have a political objection to it due to the situation in the territories or because of the economic considerations. If they have the money, they would prefer to go to Europe. This must not be given a political significance.

But I have proof that the Egyptians are not issuing passports and are applying red tape, I said.

Ghali sat up: No, this is not true. I have heard this argument many times but anyone who so wishes can go.

However, I persisted stubbornly: It was Egyptians who told me this.

Ghali: Either you believe those Egyptians or you believe me. The presence of the Egyptian secret service before the [Israeli] embassy premises, he explained, is intended for security purposes.

Do you know, I said to Butrus Ghali, that there can be Israelis who believe that if the Egyptians drag their feet on normalization and autonomy, then perhaps it would be better for Israel to drag its feet on the pullback from the Sinai?

Ghali lectured: One must free oneself from this approach. We want peace and we want to have contacts. We believe we are at the beginning of a long road but you also have a rejectionist front, just like we have one here. There is an objective alliance between the two rejectionist fronts and both of them are against peace.

[Ghali--in English] One of our difficulties is to overcome those suspicions which exist both in your country and in my country. As you have rejectionists in your country, we have rejectionists in Egypt, too, and I repeat it very often: There is a kind of objective alliance between Egyptian rejectionists and Israeli rejectionists. Both of them, for different reasons, are against the peace process.

[Ghali--in English] We, who believe in the dialogue, must overcome those difficulties. We must continue to talk to each other. We must continue to discuss very frankly. We must continue to solve smoothly certain problems that exist. There will be problems. There are problems. There will be new problems and I am sure that what has been achieved in the field of normalization in the last 12 months is very positive and what will be achieved in the next 12 months will be very positive, too.

[Gus] Then I pointed out the procrastinations. For example: the trade agreement that has not been ratified [by the Egyptian parliament].

Ghali got angry: It will be ratified in the next few days. But the proof to counter this, he said, is that trade already exists, even without the agreement.

But the government market is closed, I said.

Ghali replied: Do not overestimate it. If people want to conduct business, they will. Still, he said, the trade agreement will be ratified in the next few dasy, without any problem.

My last question to Dr Ghali was: How do you explain your readiness to respond to the Soviet Union's call for an international conference on Middle East affairs? Ghali again replied in terms of the Camp David accords:

[Ghali--in English] At a certain stage--in our point of view, according to Camp David, this will be at the last stage--but certainly the Middle East crisis is a kind of cold war crisis and there is no solution of any cold war crisis unless you have the agreement of the two superpowers. So in Camp David, with the Israelis, we agreed that at a certain stage we must have the Soviet Union's participation to form a kind of finalization of the Middle East crisis.

PERES SAYS ISRAEL SHOULD INITIATE PEACE MOVE

TA161723 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres thinks that Israel should initiate the next peace move because the Arab world is now standing at a crossroads and there is a real danger that nuclear weapons will be introduced into the region. Unless an effort is made to present a courageous initiative, we risk a grave deterioration in the region and we will face problems by far more difficult than those we are now facing, Peres said. Peres spoke at a meeting of the United Israel Appeal in Geneva.

THORN DENIES IMPENDING EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

TA140529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Text] Persistent reports on an impending European initiative on the Middle East have been dismissed by the president of the Common Market council, Gaston Thorn. He told Israel radio's correspondent in Copenhagen that the Nine have not drafted any concrete program to resolve the Middle East problem. Thorn said so far they had only worked out points of principle which could serve as guidelines to a solution. He said there was no plan to go any further before the Israeli elections in June.

On the question of the Sinai supervisory force, Thorn said no one had yet asked the Common Market to play a role but if all the parties involved were to make such a request, it would automatically receive a positive response.

ALGERIA

ALGERIAN MATERIALS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN MAURITANIA

LD170148 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0000 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Following the treacherous aggression committed by the Moroccan regime against Mauritania, President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and the party's secretary general, sent the following cable to the Mauritanian head of state, Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala:

I would like to convey congratulations to you for the speed with which the leaders of Mauritania have foiled the aggression directed against your government and against the sovereignty of the fraternal Mauritanian people. I would also like to express to you sentiments of fraternal solidarity which the Algerian people and government hold for you and to assert our absolute support. Algeria condemns this aggression and it also condemns all attempts aimed at spreading unrest in your country and at harming its sovereignty and independence. Algeria, which supports stability for Mauritania--the fraternal neighbor--and respect for its sovereignty, will remain on its side in its fight against foreign intervention and in the continuous struggle which it is waging so that it can be a strong and independent state capable of carrying out its role in solving the problems of the region. While assuring you of our sincere and effective solidarity in the severe trial which sister Mauritania is experiencing, I beg you dear brother to accept my highest sentiments of fraternal appreciation.

Mauritanian Envoy's Comments

LD170054 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2300 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Excerpts] After the aggression inspired by Morocco against Mauritania, the Political Bureau of the FLN met this afternoon under the chairmanship of the head of state. We will come back to the results of this meeting in detail in the next few hours.

After this aggression it must be noted that President Chadli Bendjedid has sent a message of support to the Mauritanian leaders congratulating them on the (?calmness) with which they foiled the plot. Algeria, devoted to stability and respect for the sovereignty of Mauritania, a fraternal and neighborly country, will remain at its side in its struggle against foreign interference, the head of state said in particular.

At Nouakchott the situation is calm this evening, and the Mauritanian Armed Forces are in total control of the situation there, as they are throughout Mauritanian territory.

It is known that the Mauritanian Government sent a warning to Morocco against such attacks a few days ago. The special envoy of Mauritania in Algiers is very explicit on this matter. Here he is:

[Begin recording] I think Hassan II cannot make this sort of decision if he doesn't have [word indistinct] of the Europeans at least. You know that the Americans have been supplying weapons recently, but I think that for this operation [words indistinct] the Europeans are trying to give Hassan II in his aggression and in his policy (?aimed at) destabilization in the region. It goes without saying that for us it is a very bad [word indistinct] (?by the Europeans themselves and Morocco). [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Diplomats See 'Evidence'

LD162108 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Excerpt] It has been learned from Nouakchott that the heads of the diplomatic corps accredited to Mauritania were summoned this evening by Mauritanian authorities to the Presidency of the government, which was subjected this morning to Moroccan aggression. They were able to see the evidence of this aggression. The Mauritanian prime minister again accused, before the heads of the diplomatic missions, the Rabat regime of engineering the aggression and blamed the Western countries which support the expansionist policy of the Moroccan regime.

Political Bureau Statement

LD170118 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0000 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Following the meeting it held yesterday afternoon under the chairmanship of President of the Republic and Party Secretary General Chadli Bendjedid to discuss the situation in the region, the Political Bureau issued the following statement:

The Political Bureau, meeting on 16 March 1981 under the chairmanship of the president of the republic and the party secretary general to study the situation in the region after the attempt to spread disorder in the Mauritanian Islamic Republic, recalls the fact that the Algerian Government informed the diplomatic missions in Algiers over the last 2 days of its concern over reports that had come to the knowledge of the president following his meeting with the special envoy of President Mohammed Khouna Ould Haydala. As regards beginning implementation of the threats to which the Islamic Republic of Mauritania had been exposed, the Political Bureau is pleased with the failure of the attempt to spread disorder. It stresses Algeria's solidarity with the Mauritanian people and government under the current special circumstances and it strongly condemns the aggression by the Moroccan Government against Mauritania, which is an open violation of the principles of the UN and OAU Charters, as well as the Nonaligned Movement.

The Political Bureau regards this action as falling within the framework of the logic of the expansionist and aggressive policy which the Government of Morocco is pursuing in the region; the logic which is explained by the occupation of the Western Sahara and the constant threats to the countries of the region.

The Political Bureau points out that the Moroccan Government, by ignoring all the resolutions of the United Nations and the OAU and the nonaligned countries--aiming at putting an end to the crisis in the region, the crisis resulting from the armed occupation of the Western Sahara--this government is far from embarking on the path of looking for a political solution; consequently, it is bent on exercising the policy of adventure, of running away [word indistinct], of aggression and of spreading armed struggle with the aim of realizing its expansionist policy.

The Political Bureau expresses Algeria's warning against any policy of escalation, which is bound to aggravate the crisis and prolong the plan of intervention, spreading disorder and threatening the independence of Mauritania. It stresses Algeria's will of decisive opposition to such a policy, the continuation of which will inevitably lead a widescale confrontation in all parts of the region.

The Political Bureau addresses an appeal to the African and international communities to condemn the Moroccan Government's aggression and to take all the measures necessary to preserve the independence and territorial integrity of Mauritania and to prevent the Moroccan Government from violating the sovereignty of Mauritania and of peace and security in the region. The Political Bureau believes that respecting Mauritania's independence and sovereignty constitutes a basic factor for peace and security in the region. It consequently stresses Algeria's adherence to the rights of all the people of the region to live under the banner of peace, freedom and independence. It expresses its confidence in the common destiny which demands from these peoples that they work for a future in which harmony and fraternity prevail.

PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY DEPARTS FOR MAURITANIA 17 MAR

LD171436 Algiers APS in English 1216 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Algiers, 17 Mar (APS)--Dr Ahmed Talib Ibrahimi, C.C. member, minister to the Presidency of the Republic, left Algiers on Tuesday for Mauritania as a special envoy of the president of the republic, FLN secretary-general, Mr Chadli Bendjedid to President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydalah, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Dr. Ibrahimi is accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Larbi Belkier, CC member, permanent secretary of the Security High Council.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI RESPONDS TO PRESS ON CURRENT ISSUES

LD161348 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] The brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, commander of the Great 1 September Revolution, has affirmed that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is opposed to plane hijacking. Replying to a question about the hijacking of the Pakistani plane at a press conference he held in Tripoli yesterday and which was attended by a large number of world press and news agency corresponsents, he said: We do not know who the hijackers were and what the purpose of the hijacking operation was. We also did not know whether those coming from Pakistan were actually political prisoners or ordinary people. We also did not know the reason for their imprisonment.

Asked about the difference between revolutionary violence and terrorism, the brother commander pointed out that we support revolutionary violence such as the struggle of the Palestinians for their cause and other causes similar to that of Palestine. The brother commander gave examples of groups practising terrorism, affirming that the Jamahiriyah stands against all types of terrorism.

The brother commander explained the Jamahiriyah's principled stand of support for the Palestinian strugglers who are fighting for the sake of their freedom, the cause of their people and the liberation of their land, as well as for their just cause. He pointed out that we support all the peoples struggling for their freedom and independence because we believe in just causes, the causes of the peoples.

Asked about the situation in El Salvador, the brother commander said: We support the struggle of the people of El Salvador against dictatorship and the influence of the United States, which supports dictatorship.

The brother commander pointed out at his press conference that the Jamhiri [of the masses] unity between Libya and Chad is in line with the OAU Charter. Those who criticize this unity, he said, are wrong. The brother commander also affirmed that the unity of the two countries depends on the agreement of the peoples of the two countries and their willpower.

It is the right of peoples to fight their enemies, he said, and if the Libyan people have enemies then it is the right of the Libyan people to fight them and rid themselves of them. He pointed out that imperialism, Zionism, reaction and the enemies of mankind, freedom and peace, the enemies of humanity, are all enemies of the Libyan people.

The brother commander said that it is the duty of every Arab to fight for the sake of the liberation of Palestine, adding: I am personally prepared to do so.

The brother commander said: We will not amend or change our policy toward the United States until the U.S. Government changes its pro-Israeli attitude. He pointed out that all the world's peace- and freedom-loving forces condemn the American stand, which supports the Zionist enemy. The brother commander added: The U.S. policy, which is against the Arab nation, concerns not only the Jamahiriyah but the entire Arab nation.

Asked about the likelihood of resorting to oil as a weapon, the brother commander said: If necessary we will use oil as a political weapon against our enemies.

JANA Report

LD162300 Tripoli JANA in English 1849 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Ellipses as received]

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Mar (JANA)--The Great Al-Fatah Revolution's leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi held a press conference yesterday in Tripoli.

In the conference, he said the Jamahiriyah had no knowledge of the Pakistani airplane hijack operation, who commanded the operation and whether the released Pakistani prisoners were indeed political detainees or ordinary criminals.

He added that the Jamahiriyah opposed terror and hijacking and said there was a difference between revolutionary violence and terror. The Palestinians, he said, were fighting for their freedom and their cause and what they were therefore performing was revolutionary violence, not terror.

He continued: "We support all people's struggle for independence and freedom.....The Jamahiriyah therefore supports the struggle of northern Ireland's people for freedom, and the Salvadorean people's struggle against dictatorship and United States influence....."

On the West German company OTRAG's tests in the Libyan desert, he said: "These tests are both for civilian purposes and are of a peaceful nature..... They have no relation whatsoever to military matters".

On the merger between Libya and Chad, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said: "If the Libyan and Chadian people agree to unite, then we will not hesitate in declaring union.....the criticisms of some African regimes regarding such a merger are based on misunderstandings..... we will not impose union on anyone.....Libyan forces shall be withdrawn from Chad at the earliest possible date....."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi denied the presence in Libya of East German, Cuban or Soviet technical advisers. He added: "We only have Russian and French personnel who have come to train Libyans on the use of arms bought from both countries".

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said the Jamahiriyah opposes the acquisition of nuclear weapons and calls for the destruction of all such weapons world-wide and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

On the new U.S. administration, he said: "We still do not know President Reagan and hope that relations between us will be good during his term of office".

MAURITANIA'S MAHMOUD ARRIVES FOR 'SHORT VISIT'

LD161242 Tripoli JANA in English 0936 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Mar (JANA)--The permanent secretary of the Mauritanian Military Committee for National Salvation, Mr. Dahane Ould Ahmed Mahmoud, arrived in Tripoli yesterday for a short visit to the Jamahiriyah.

MAURITANIA

MATERIALS ON 16 MAR ATTEMPTED COUP IN NOUAKCHOTT

Radio Report

AB161953 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] The domestic news is characterized by the cowardly aggression which Moroccan-paid mercenaries perpetrated this morning, launching a coup attempt in Nouakchott. Our national armed forces have gallantly foiled the plot and crushed the commando led by traitors Ahmed Salem Ould Sidi and Mohamed Abdelkader Ould Bah. These hired assassins, who were armed and guided by a foreign power, killed innocent people at the Presidency of the Republic. According to the last military communique which we have received, traitor Abdelkader was killed during his arrest, while his accomplice Ould Sidi was arrested in the first moments of the operation. The remainder of the commando was entirely annihilated and the national armed forces are in control of the situation.

Relations With Morocco Broken

AB171430 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] The Permanent Committee of the Military Committee of the National Salvation [CMSN] held an extraordinary meeting on 16 March 1981, under the chairmanship of Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the CMSN and head of state. After a thorough examination of the situation created by the attempt by the Moroccan Kingdom to overthrow the regime with the help of a gang of traitors in its pay which it organized and trained for this purpose, the Permanent Committee decided to break its diplomatic relations with that country and urges the government to immediately take the necessary measures to implement this decision. It also urges the government to continue its action with the African, Arab and international organizations so that they may strongly condemn this unmistakable aggression perpetrated by the Kingdom of Morocco against our country.

Minister's Statement

LD162218 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2042 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Statement by Minister of Culture, Information, Post and Telecommunications Ahmedou Ould Sidi "made a short while ago"; place not given--recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Armed commandos this morning entered the town of Nouakchott. They entered in three Landrovers across the Senegal River under the command of the two mercenaries and traitors, former Col Abdelkader Ould Bah and Ahmed Salem Ould Sidi. The commandos were fully armed. They were trained to carry out an assault operation. They were trained in Morocco for several months. The task of the commandos was to kill the chairman of the Military Committee of National Salvation and head of state, the prime minister, the chief of the General Staff of the National Army, and all members of the Military Committee of National Salvation, which was going to meet today at 0900. The commandos entered via the Senegal River and carried out a desperate attempt which resulted in many innocent victims.

An end was put to the commandos at the time by the armed forces and national security forces. All of them are now in the hands of the Mauritanian authorities. In this connection we would like to recall that former colonel traitor Abdelkader Ould Bah, when realizing that he had fallen under arrest, swallowed poison tablets, but was immediately rushed to a hospital, where he recovered consciousness. He is now under arrest in the hands of the Mauritanian authorities. In this framework, the prime minister and head of government, Ahmad Ould Bneijara, received the heads of all diplomatic missions at government house, where they were briefed and saw for themselves on the spot evidence of these savage acts. According to the statements made by the commandos, they were accompanied by Moroccans.

Mauritania, while condemning this savage and barbaric act, is officially asking the Security Council, the Arab League, the United Nations, and the OAU to condemn this savage act which was carried out by Morocco against Mauritania and its leadership. The government, while announcing this official request to all these organizations, condemns and denounces this savage and terrorist act.

With regard to the situation, it is very calm and normal. The government and the army are in full control of the situation. Work will be resumed tomorrow, God willing, starting at 0800, as the case is with regard to the times of the administration and the private sector. As for the curfew, it runs from 1900 to 0600.

According to statements made by members of the commando group, their operation aimed, after killing the officials, at issuing a statement to be broadcast over the radio asking for the immediate intervention of the Moroccan Air Force and Army in Mauritania. This statement was taken from those who planned this evil aggression, the premeditated aggression by Morocco against Mauritania. This is, in short, the case of this aggression, which has left many innocent victims. The military Committee of National Salvation and the government, while condemning this action and asking all organizations to condemn it, send their sincere and heartfelt condolences to the families of all those innocent victims.

Press Agency Editorial

AB162025 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1920 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] The Mauritanian press agency has written the following editorial:

The prime minister and head of government addressed a message to the Mauritanian people in which he pointed out that the cowardly action of a handful of mercenaries--who sold their conscience and their fatherland and preferred to be docile instruments of attack against our country and the executors of the aggressive and expansionist plans fomented by the Moroccan reactionaries--had failed.

The Mauritanian people, who refuse submission, tagging along and foreign occupation, will always stand up against any foreign aggression and give the Moroccans an unforgettable lesson. Our armed forces, which have the situation in the whole country under control, are capable and are backed by the great Mauritanian people have repelled the aggression and dispelled Morocco's expansionist dreams. Morocco's expansionists prepared the ground for today's attempt with a campaign of lies launched against our people and country, a campaign which also aimed at embittering our people and our relations with our brothers and friends. We have already exposed this campaign in the communique of the Council of Ministers and by all that was published by our national press, because we were sure that the voices of the expansionist propanganda in Morocco were preparing an attack. And now the Moroccan expansionists have indeed tried to execute their plans by means of terrorists and Mauritanian mercenaries who have already been condemned for treason against their country. Besides, the Mauritanian people consider them to be individuals without consciences.

Our people, who are known for their love of independence, should mobilize themselves behind their national government to defend their sovereignty and dignity. Moroccan expansionists have removed their mask and revealed their real face and shown their venomous fangs by trying to execute today's attempt. As our armed forces have accomplished their role by nipping this attempt in the bud, our popular masses should be vigilant and be mobilized constantly, and each one of us must be a soldier prepared to defend territorial sovereignty and integrity by all means. The national government has the situation in the whole country under control, but in spite of that we repeat that our popular masses must remain mobilized because the threat of the enemy is still there. Our people, as the prime minister said, will overcome. They will overcome by all means because their cause is just and their position is honest.

Investigations, Arrests

JN171243 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1208 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Nouakchott, 17 Mar (INA)--Mauritanian Prime Minister Sidi Ahmed Ould Bneijara has said that the abortive coup attempt witnessed by the country yesterday was contrary to the Arab nation's human and social vlaues.

In a statement to an INA correspondent here today, the prime minister added that the Mauritanian Government will announce the results of the investigation into this attempt, in which elements which have fled from Mauritania participated.

Mauritanian President Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala today cut short his tour of the northern part of the country and returned to the capital, Nouakchott, where he investigated the damage caused to the presidential palace as a result of yesterday's attack.

Well-informed sources here said that the Mauritanian authorities have arrested several elements suspected of complicity in the coup attempt, including Ahmed Ould Mihsin, former director of public security.

MOROCCO

MOROCCAN MATERIALS ON ATTEMPTED COUP IN MAURITANIA

Radio Report

LD162042 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] There was a coup attempt in Nouakchott this morning by a number of officers who broke away from the Military Committee for National Salvation. Mauritanian radio said that one of the principal officers who engineered the attempt was killed and the other officer was arrested. The radio added that the coup attempt began by simultaneously attacking the presidency premises, where the Military Committee for National Salvation was meeting, as well as the government house.

The clash between those who engineered the attempt and the guards of the two establishments lasted for about 2 hours, beginning at 1000. A number of persons were killed. Those who engineered the attempt used medium and heavy weapons in their attack and they managed to enter the presidency palace before they were surrounded by regular forces inside the palace.

A curfew has been declared in Nouakchott starting at 1800. Transport came to a halt; Nouakchott civil airport was closed.

Denunciation of Accusations

LD171008 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Rabat, 17 Mar (MAP)--Official sources in Morocco have expressed their profound denunciation of the accusations leveled by the prime minister of Mauritania, who was unable to offer the least shred of evidence proving that Morocco had any responsibility for the events in Mauritania yesterday.

The same sources have not failed to notice the many contradictions in the Mauritanian prime minister's statement, "especially that the measures adopted and the many calls addressed to the people of Mauritania demonstrate that the matter is nothing more than a commando operation."

The Moroccan official sources added that this is not the first time that Mauritanian officials, when faced by difficulties and problems, have tried "to divert attention by leveling cheap accusations against Morocco.

"The same sources have drawn attention to the policy of nonintervention pursued by Morocco toward the internal affairs of other countries," a policy which has characterized the continuity of relations with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and which existed even when more than 10,000 Moroccan soldiers were stationed in Mauritania.

The Moroccan official sources, while rejecting in total the irresponsible accusations of the prime minister of Mauritania, charge the Mauritanian Government with responsibility for any negative development which may ensure with regard to Morocco's relations with the fraternal Mauritanian people.

Maati Bouabid, the prime minister and minister of justice, will make a statement today on the subject to journalists in the town of Marrakech.

FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS TIES WITH MAURITANIA 16 MAR

LD161854 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Rabat, 16 Mar (MAP)--Commenting on the Mauritanian warning to Morocco, the Moroccan foreign minister, M'hameo Boucetta, has expressed the belief that there has been a problem between the two countries for months in connection with the situation in Northwest Africa in general and the attacks which Morocco might be exposed to, stemming from Mauritanian territory in particular.

In a statement to FRANCE INTER, the minister explained that available information and the statements which had been made on the occasion of visits by Algerian officials to Mauritania or officials of the mercenary gangs to Mauritania have compelled Moroccan public opinion, as well as Moroccan officials, to draw attention to the gravity of the situation which might result from any attack on Morocco from Mauritanian territory.

Replying to a question about the astonishment by a number of circles about the Mauritanian warning--bearing in mind the fact that even when the Moroccan forces were in Mauritania there was no Moroccan threat--Mr Boucetta stressed that Morocco's policy was quite clear, not only in statements but also in stands and measures adopted. Morocco, he added, has expressed the desire to establish relations of goodneighborliness and cooperation with Mauritania; rather, Morocco has treated this issue as a basic one, going as far as setting up a special establishment for promotion of this cooperation.

Mr Boucetta pointed out that despite the fact that at one time not less than 12,000 Moroccan soldiers were in Mauritania, Morocco always remained far away from any interference in the internal affairs of this country. The minister added that it is impossible for Morocco to remain indifferent if it is exposed to attacks or aggression coming from Mauritanian territory.

Regarding relations existing between Morocco and Mauritania, Mr Boucetta stressed Morocco's determination to promote the existing cooperation, pointing to the exchange of visits by delegations between the two countries so as to continue to consolidate this cooperation.

NIGER PRESIDENT ARRIVES ON WORKING VISIT 16 MAR

LD161456 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Col Seyni Kountche, president of Niger and president of the Supreme Military Council, arrived at Marrakech airport this morning on a working visit at the head of an important delegation including Garba Sidikou, minister of higher education and research; (Hamid Zarkai), minister of commerce; (Sami Baku), secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; and (Morno Doure Ahmad), director of protocol. The Niger president was welcomed at the airport by Maati Bouabid, prime minister and minister of justice; M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation; Driss Basr, minister of the interior; Abdelkamel Raghaye, minister of finance; Ben Ali Mansour, minister of administrative affairs; and Abdelwahed Belkziz, minister of information.

GROUP PROTESTS HARASSMENT IN OCCUPIED TOWNS

LD171106 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Rabat, 17 Mar (MAP)--The Moroccan League for the Defense of Human Rights has called on Moroccan officials "to take all serious and effective measures to put an end to the acts of repression and harassment to which Moroccan citizens are subjected in the Spanish-occupied towns of Ceuta and Melilla."

In a statement issued after its meeting in Rabat last Saturday, the league denounced the conditions under which Moroccan citizens live in these two occupied Moroccan towns and the mass deportations to which they are subjected. The league called on the Moroccan Government to work for the repatriation of these expelled citizens and provide them with necessary protection against all actions that detract from their right to live there and to enjoy their citizenship rights, which should be respected in accordance with the international human rights convention.

The league's statement, which is published by AL-'ALAM newspaper, the organ of the Moroccan Independence Party, said the league will prepare a detailed and comprehensive report to be submitted to Moroccan officials and to all organizations concerned with human rights, explaining the various "unlawful practices which the Spanish authorities have been carrying out there."

SUDAN

NUMAYRI ON SOVIET INTENTIONS, FACILITIES FOR U.S.

JN161949 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1918 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Mar (SUNA)--President Numayri has described Soviet infiltration attempts in Africa as "cancer" and stressed that only the United States, as a superpower, can confront such attempts. In a comprehensive interview with AP, President Numayri remarked that the Sudanese Government is ready to give military facilities to the United States in the event of any conflicts. He also called on the United States and the Western countries to increase their economic and military aid to the developing countries as a deterrent against Soviet infiltration in the continent. In this interview President Numayri referred to the discovery of a plot last week to overthrow the existing regime in Sudan.

President Numayri's remarks have come in the wake of the announcement made by President Ronald Reagan's administration in Washington that it wishes to increase its military aid to Egypt and Sudan in light of the Soviet-backed Libyan intervention in Chad. This is in line with the U.S. administration's view which considers the Horn of Africa and the Arab Gulf as zones of U.S. influence.

President Numayri said that Libyan military intervention in Chad is part of the Soviet plan to gradually control Africa. He noted in this respect that 50 military experts are assisting in building the Libyan forces in the town of Qar'at Bishi, which is 80 miles from the western Sudanese border. The president added that the proximity of these forces to the Sudanese border has encouraged them to carry out acts of sabotage all along the border.

President Numayri said he believes that the Soviet Union's objective now is to infiltrate until it reaches the Nile basin; that is, Egypt and Sudan. He added that the Soviet Union, which has swallowed up Afghanistan, is now trying hard to infiltrate into the oil-rich Gulf region because it will be in great need of oil in the next 10 years.

President Numayri described the Soviet encroachment as cancer and reaffirmed that he will be ready to give military facilities to the United States in view of this gradual and systematic Soviet infiltration. The president pointed out that he would welcome U.S. assistance in training the Sudanese force.

President Numayri continued: We are against the communist ideology, and we will be completely ready to give facilities to the United States when we feel that we are facing a direct threat. President Numayri said that Sudan has enormous manpower but lacks traning and rehabilitation. If the United States offers assistance in this field, the Sudanese people will be able to fight as a strong and unified army.

President Numayri expressed the hope that the United States will assist the governments of the developing countries so they can protect their peoples against the Soviet danger. The president said that he does not object to the acquisition by the United States of military bases in the developing countries as long as it does not interfere in the internal affairs of those countries.

President Numayri said that Sudan is ready to give military facilities to the United States if the latter is prepared to build military airfields for the Sudanese Army and to use these airfields jointly in case of danger.

President Numayri said that the Soviet Union will never forgive Egypt for expelling the Soviet experts in 1972. Still, the Soviets understand that they cannot do anything in the Middle East without the support of the Egyptian people, he said. The president added: The Soviets know that Sudan, which is crossed by the Nile, forms Egypt's rear and that it can [word indistinct] Soviet on Egypt. They will try to do the same thing with other countries. He referred, in this regard, to Nigeria because of its oil and copper resources.

President Numayri expressed his confidence that Sudan and Egypt have the power to crush any military invasion in view of their true ties of friendship. The president warned of acts of sabotage.

President Numayri pointed out that Western aid to the developing countries is vital in preventing the Soviet Union from exploiting the poverty of these countries to force regimes on them.

Concerning Libyan intervention in Chad, President Numayri said that this intervention serves Soviet ambitions. It also serves the ambitions of Libya, which wants to establish an Islamic empire that includes the Maghreb and Senegal.

President Numayri said that the Soviets might not intervene militarily, but they might intervene through an ideological invasion of the country.

President Numayri announced that a coup attempt headed by a retired army officer to overthrow the regime was aborted last week. He said that the leader of the coup, Sa'd Bahr, is one of five army officers who were arrested and will be tried as soon as the necessary investigations have been conducted. President Numayri added: Western sources say that Brig Gen Sa'd Bahr had participated in two other coup attempts against President Numayri's regime. The first was in 1971 and the second was last May. President Numayri said he believes that certain foreign forces were behind the coup and that these forces could be Ba'thist Syria, which is aligned with the Soviets.

Concluding his 1-hour interview, Numayri invited Western financiers to Sudan, saying that Sudan welcomes foreign investment in exploiting mineral resources such as gold and silver in the Red Sea area and iron, chrome and asbestos in other parts of the country.

ETHIOPIA

DJIBOUTI LEADER CONTINUES ADDIS ABABA VISIT

LD161686 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0330 GMT 16 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, the chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] and commander in chief of the revolutionary army, yesterday awarded His Excellency President Hassan Gouled Aptidon, leader of the Republic of Djibouti, the Grand Africa decoration, first class. The comrade chairman also hosted a state dinner in honor of his excellency the president.

At the National Palace ceremony Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam said that the decision to award His Excellency President Hassan Gouled the Grand Africa first class medal was made by the people and Government of Ethiopia in recognition of the struggle his excellency the president had led to liberate the people of Djibouti from colonial oppression, his efforts to (?stabilize the peeople so as to allow them to) participate in the political, economic and social life of Djibouti after independence, and for his contributions toward strengthening relations between the peoples of Djibouti and Ethiopia.

The comrade chairman added that the decoration indicates the respect the government and people of Ethiopia have for his excellency, the people and Government of Djibouti, adding that he was highly pleased to have had the opportunity to award it to His Excellency President Gouled.

For his part His Excellency President Gouled said that he was very pleased to receive the award, adding that he and his delegation consider Ethiopia their second home.

At the end of the award ceremony, Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam hosted a state dinner in honor of His Excellency President Gouled. Present at the occasion were the wives of the two leaders: Comrade Fiseha Desta, the deputy secretary general of the PMAC, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and Executive Committee member of COPWE; PMAC Standing Committee and COPWE Executive Committee members; ministers; COPWE Central Committee members and high-ranking government officials and representatives of mass organizations.

In his speech at the dinner Comrade Chairman Mengistu said: Since our wish is to improve the living standards of our people and develop our backward economy, we will strive to bring peace to our region and the whole world. The comrade chairman went on to say that although we have reiterated our wish to live in harmony and peace, cooperate in various fields of development and bring our people closer to those of neighboring countries--to which the Governments of the Sudan, Kenya and Djibouti have responded positively--the total peace we so strongly desire is unfortunately not possible because of the rejection of our noble objectives by the expansionist Somali Government.

On peace and progress in the two countries, the comrade chairman said that the disruption of peace and stability in Djibouti would affect Ethiopia similarly, adding that as the economies of the two countries are interdependent, there exists the possibility of cooperating in development projects and taking all steps needful for the progress of each country, to the benefit of both peoples.

The comrade chairman expressed the willingness of the Ethiopian Government to strengthen and expand cooperation agreements concluded earlier with the Djibouti Government, to open up new fields of cooperation, and work together for the mutual benefit, well-being and prosperity of the two brotherly people.

In reply, his excellency the president expressed his thanks for the warm brotherly welcome he was given and asked Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam to convey the brotherly greetings of the Djibouti people to the people and Government of Ethiopia. The president noted that his visit to socialist Ethiopia would further strengthen the relations and ties between the two sisterly countries and added that the decisive steps that were taken following the upsurge of the Ethiopian revolution under the leadership of Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam have helped to develop relations between the two countries.

The president noted the economic backwardness and natural calamities that Africa is facing at present and said that the two countries should work together to solve such problems and promote the peace, security and progress of the continent.

UGANDA

MINISTRY ORDER BANS OPPOSITION PUBLICATIONS

LD161934 Dar es Salaam in English to Central and Southern Africa 1800 GMT 16 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Kampala--Four of Uganda's opposition newspapers have been banned. The banned newspapers are THE CITIZEN, THE ECONOMY, AFRICA AND MULENGERA. The banning order, announced today by Internal Affairs Minister Ndugu Luwuliza, was under the newspaper and publication act.

Last January, the minister of information, Ndugu David Anyoti, warned that a hammer was going to fall on newspapers which did not go in line with government policy.

DETENTION WARRANT ISSUED FOR OPPOSITION LAWMAKER

AB131238 Paris AFP in French 1031 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] Kampala, 13 Mar (AFP)--The Ugandan Government has issued a detention warrant for a parliamentarian who is a member of the opposition Democratic Party, Professor Yoweri Kyesimira, who is currently in custody, following the habeas corpus request made by the Democratic Party's lawyers in order to force the government to release Mr Kyesimira or put him on trial, it was learned in Kampala on Thursday.

The Democratic Party chairman, Mr Paul Semogere, disclosed during a press conference in Kampala on Thursday that another member of his party, Mr Kitaka Gaweera, had been arrested by the police on Wednesday and was being detained without official charge. Professor Kyesimira was arrested last 18 February. Mr Semogere recalled that President Obote had declared that he would never sign a detention warrant nor would he allow his ministers to do so. Moreover, Mr Semogere said that he was shocked to see that hundreds of Ugandans are still being arrested when the elections are over.

SOLDIERS ADVISED AGAINST POLITICAL ACTIVITY

LD141856 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Soldiers have been advised not to take part in any political activity but to safeguard the population against external aggressors. The advice was given by the commander of the 15th battalion, Lt Col Bazilio Olara Okelo, when addressing security personnel. The commander deplored the act of looting by some of the security personnel while on duty and warned that whoever is caught will face the law of the land. He stressed the need for unity, saying paying lip-service to unity cannot help the country to develop. He warned civilians not to confuse soldiers because of their selfish ends. The meeting was attended by the chairman of the UPC [Uganda People's Congress], Kampala east, Mr Aggrey Awori, and the acting district commissioner, Kampala, Mr George (Madia).

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

DACKO WINS ELECTION WITH 44 PERCENT OF VOTE

AB170649 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Mr David Dacko has won a new 6-year mandate. The CAR head of state has won the presidential election held 2 days ago with a lower majority than expected. This was announced yesterday in Bangui by well-informed sources. In the capital where 95 percent of the ballot papers have already been counted, it is estimated that Mr Dacko obtained 44 percent of the votes cast against 42 percent for his main opponent, former Prime Minister Ange Patasse. The final results of the election will be known by tomorrow.

OFFICIAL WARNS AGAINST PUBLIC DISTURBANCES 13 MAR

AB132208 Bangui Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] Brig Gen Francois Sylvestre Sana, minister-delegate to the presidency for national defense will now speak to the nation on the arrangements which have been made by the armed forces to ensure your security, protect your belongings and avoid the [word indistinct]. I now hand over to the minister:

[Begin recording] [words indistinct] Fellow Central Africans, fellow citizens, fellow countrymen, [words indistinct], in 48 hours you will be called upon to vote for a president of the republic. On this rather solemn occasion the minister-delegate to the presidency for national defense, Brig Gen Francois Sylvestre Sana, appeals to all Central Africans to show their sense of civic awareness by observing the laws of the republic and respecting the liberty of the people. There are persistent rumors of tension, agitation, disturbances, looting and sabotage.

The Central African army is at the service of the nation to defend the democratic institutions you massively and willingly adopted in a referendum on 1 February 1981; therefore the armed forces will not fold its arms and watch the institutions of the republic being threatened. Any agitation or public disturbance will be vigorously repressed and the culprits punished according to the law. The security measures which have been and will be taken by the armed forces are aimed at protecting the citizens and their belongings, on the whole of the Central African territory and these are to be respected by all.

Fellow countrymen, fellow Central African citizens, on Sunday, 15 March 1981 you will be free to vote with calm and dignity. On that day the whole world will have its eyes on our country. Let us give it the proof of our calmness and our [word indistinct]. Long live national unity! [end recording]

BRIEFS

CONGOLESE DEFENSE CHIEF-- A new chief of defense staff for the People's National Army was appointed this morning. He is Lt Col Emmanuel (Lulunda), who replaces Col Raymond Damase Ngollo, who was last January appointed minister delegate to the presidency for national defense. The new chief of defense staff was officially presented to the officers and soldiers of the People's National Army in Brazzaville during a parade this morning. [Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 12 Mar 81 AB]

ENVOYS TO GABON--Libreville, 10 Mar (AFP)--The Gabonese president, Omar Bongo, on Monday received the letters of credence of the new ambassadors of Zaire and Canada to Gabon, Wakaha Kapenda and Jacques Denault, residing in Libreville and Yaounde respectively. [Excerpt] [Paris AFP in French 1141 GMT 10 Mar 81 AB]

GHANA

TRADE MINISTER PLEDGES TO DEAL WITH RISING PRICES

AB170933 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] The government has expressed concern over the high prices of commodities and services in the country. In a broadcast over radio and television in Accra last night, the minister of trade, Mr Vincent Bulla, reaffirmed the government's readiness to deal firmly but rationally with the problem. He recalled that not long ago, many Ghanaians were extolling the virtues of the free market system and urging the government to decontrol and, last August, Parliament took a major step towards the liberalization of commerce by enacting the import and export act. Mr Buella said although the act envisaged controls, the government, considering the fact that the process of liberalization was predicated on the utilization of individual foreign exchange resources for the supply of goods, felt vast time was needed to test whether liberalization was compatible with rigid price control.

The minister said the People's National Party, PNP, resumed office at a time when the country's warehouses, shops and markets were virtually empty. The government realized that some Ghanaians would take undue advantage of the temporary difficulties to raise prices. It therefore felt the need to raise the conciousness of Ghanaians for voluntary action in the common defense against such increases. This, he said, was the concept of the vigilante and watch groups. But unfortunately, leaders of the minority groups denounced the idea and today, the very people who would have no part in the citizen's effort to protect himself against profiteering are the same people who are accusing the government of failing to enforce a rigid price control.

Mr Bulla said the answer to the problem facing Ghanaians is the price and the enforcement of rigid price control He said unless the people look at the problem with a greater sense of realism, they would have no chance of moving away from the vicious circle in which the country has been caught for some years and from which the government is doing its best to extricate. Mr Bulla noted that over the years the country has lived in the regime [as heard] of extreme shortages. The most prominent among the factors that have accounted for this, the minister said, is that the nation's resources have been woefully inadequate to provide the goods and services needed. He therefore spelt out the policies the government intends assuming [as heard] in the trade sector to deal with the country's current problems.

Mr Bulla said the government remains committed to the policy of evolutionary movement towards the liberalization of the economy. This implies a conscious program for the step-by-step removal of the controls built into the economy over the years. As a first step, he said, the government has identified a list of 15 commodities which it considers basic to the requirements of the people and it has decided to commit the necessary resources which will ensure that these commodities are procured in reasonable quantities to meet the requirements of the nation. The minister said until the effect of this policy is felt and the supply situation begins to improve, the government has no choice but to go through a period of demand management. The objective will be to protect the workers and farmers from arbitrary price increases by making sure that they obtain their minimum requirements from source.

To this end, Mr Bulla said the government is speeding up its plans for the effective distribution of the 15 commodities. Workers' and farmers' consumer cooperatives will feature prominently in these plans. He reminded Ghanaians that irrespective of political stand, the national interest demands that they approach such serious problems not with an eye toward scoring cheap political points but with a sincere desire to contribute towards their solution.

GUINEA BISSAU

VIEIRA-PEREIRA MEETING IN MAPUTO POSTPONED

LD131408 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 13 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Official Guinea sources have said that they do not consider as an impossibility the holding in Maputo of a meeting between Presidents Bernardo Vieira and Aristides Pereira, leaders of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, respectively.

The same sources added that the meeting had only been postponed and that in principle the idea of the meeting being held in Maputo was still acceptable to their country.

The meeting between the Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde leaders, aimed at settling the controversy existing between the two countries, had been set for 11 March. However, Bernardo Vieira has not confirmed that he would attend it. Sources in Bissau indicated that the absence of the Guinea leader was due to lack of coordination in the time and agenda of the meeting.

IVORY COAST

PRESIDENT RECEIVES VISITING CAPE VERDE OFFICIAL

AB171045 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 0745 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] President Houphouet-Boigny yesterday received in audience the Cape Verdian secretary of state for planning and cooperation, Mr Jose Brito. At the end of his 30-minute audience, he replied to questions from the press:

[Begin recording] [Brito] As you know, after the coup d'etat in Guinea-Bissau, a new national party has been formed in Cape Verde. It is normal that we inform all African leaders of the formation of this party, and its objectives. This is mainly what we came to discuss with President Houphouet-Boigny.

[Question] You also discussed cooperation between the Ivory Coast and Cape Verde?

[Answer] The cooperation between our two countries is not well developed but we have regular exchanges at the presidential level and a good understanding between our two countries exists. We hope our visit will help consolidate our cooperation. [end recording]

LIBERIA

SOVIET DIPLOMAT DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA

AB161925 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia has given a Soviet citizen, (Aven Avenovitch Muziken), 48 hours to leave Liberia. The Foreign Ministry said the measure was taken because Mr (Muziken), a Soviet diplomat accredited to Liberia, has been declared persona non grata for engaging in acts incompatible to his diplomatic status.

A release from the Foreign Ministry said the information was conveyed to the Soviet Embassy in a note delivered to Soviet Ambassador Ulanov at the Foreign Ministry today. Delivering the note, Foreign Minister Matthews told the Soviet ambassador that while Liberia intends to practice genuine nonalignment and encourage cooperation with all countries, including the Soviet Union, the Government of Liberia will not accept improper conduct on the part of any diplomatic officer. Minister Matthews further warned against any diplomat in Liberia testing Liberia's political system.

NIGERIA

SHAGARI LEAVES FOR 4-DAY STATE VISIT TO LONDON

AB170800 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] President Shehu Shagari left Lagos this morning for London for 4-day state visit to the United Kingdom. He was accompanied by the minister of external affairs, Dr Ishaya Audu; that of transport, Alhaji (Umaru Dikо); two advisers and the deputy speaker of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Idorisu Ibrahim. He was seen off at the Murtala Mohammed Airport by the vice president, Dr Alex Ekwueme; the president of the Senate, Dr Joseph Wayas; ministers, advisers and servicemen.

Meanwhile, all is now set in London to accord President Shehu Shagari and his delegation of ministers and government officials a warm and colorful welcome when he arrives there today at the start of a 4-day state visit to the United Kingdom. Our staff correspondent reported from London last night that the Mall and the Whithall along which President Shehu Shagari will pass when he visits Buckingham Palace, the official resident of the queen, and 10 Downing Street, the official residence of the prime minister, have been decorated with the British Union Jack and the green, white, green Nigerian flag creating a ceremonial atmosphere to the beautiful scenery.

The president will hold bilateral talks on economic cooperation and discuss pressing international issues, particularly as they affect Africa. Our correspondent says that Nigerians in Britain have also completed arrangements to welcome the president, who on the eve of his departure yesterday, sent them a goodwill message. In it, he said that he was looking forward to the visit as it would afford him the opportunity to meet and share with them the hopes and aspirations of his government and the people of the country. The president appealed to them to return home at the end of their courses to contribute their quota to the development of the nation. He also urged them not to overstay their welcome but to reciprocate the hospitality of their hosts by being law-abiding.

SPECIAL POLICE FORCE TO BE SET UP TO COMBAT PIRACY

AB162131 Paris AFP in English 1058 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Lagos, 16 Mar (AFP)--The Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) is setting up a special police force as part of a drive to curb the activities of pirates, the government-owned newspaper THE NEW NIGERIAN said here today.

The NPA police force, which will be distinct from the Nigeria police, would be in charge of security at all ports in the country, the newspaper added, quoting Transport Minister of State Malam Garba Wushishi.

Mr. Wushishi told the country's chief of naval staff and the inspector general of the police that the federal government was taking a number of steps to end piracy in Nigerian territorial waters, the paper said.

Mr. Wushishi, quoted by the independent paper, NATIONAL CONCORD, two weeks ago described foreign press reports of sea piracy as crying wolf and blackmail against Nigeria. All we have been having its petty port pilfering, he reportedly said.

BRIEFS

SOVIET MEDICINE TO NIGER--The Red Cross of Niger this morning received a consignment of medical supplies from the Red Crescent of the Soviet Union. The medical supplies, which weigh almost 500 km, are worth about 600,000 CFA francs. At the presentation ceremony of the consignment, the Soviet ambassador to Niger said this gesture is an expression of friendship and solidarity from the Soviets toward the working people of Niger. [Excerpt] [Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 12 Mar 81 AB]

MOZAMBIQUE

OAU'S SIAKA STEVENS ARRIVES IN MAPUTO 16 MAR

LD161832 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 16 Mar 81 EA

[Excerpt] Siaka Stevens, president of Sierra Leone and the OAU chairman, began a visit to our country this afternoon. Siaka Stevens arrived at Mavalane airport about 2 hours ago. On arrival, he was received by Foreign Minister Samora Machel, the Mozambique head of state. President Siaka Stevens was also received by other high-ranking officials of the government and state, African diplomats accredited to Maputo, representatives of the liberation movements of southern Africa and Maputo residents. He was accorded full military honors.

PRESS CONFERENCE ON 'CIA NETWORK' HELD IN MAPUTO

LD152048 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 14 Mar 81 EA

[Press conference held in Maputo 14 March attended by former Mozambique Foreign Ministry official Jose Massinga and Mozambique Information Minister Jose Luis Cabaco, answering questions by unidentified journalists; intercepted in progress--live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Cabaco] We are now going to allow 15 minutes for questions. Please put your questions in English direct to the interpreter so that he can translate them into Portuguese for Mr Massinga.

[Question] Are you making this statement voluntarily and of your own free will?

[Massinga] Of course, yes. I am making it voluntarily and with the permission of the security forces. I asked them to let me explain everything clearly both to the public in Mozambique and to the world at large.

[Question] What I would like to know is why you left your job with the ministry.

[Massinga] Because I felt guilty about the activities I was involved in, or because I did not like the (?people) at my place of work. It was not because I did not like my job at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I wanted to leave the ministry because I wanted to break off my CIA contacts and work for my living. I didn't want anybody around me asking for information about governments.

[Question] Mr Massinga, I would like to know if you were still being paid at the time of your arrest, if you were paid for the whole of the time you had contacts with the CIA, and if you have any indication that money was deposited in your name.

[Massinga] I don't know about any bank account; I had no information about that. They told me the money was in Washington. The CIA was an organization beyond my imagination. They told me they had the money in Washington and they could give it to me at any time.

[Question] I would like to know whether, at the time you were carrying out these activities, you were aware of the damage you were doing to your country.

[Massinga] Exactly, that was why I was thinking of leaving the country. I realized that, after all, the CIA did not just want simple information. They wanted information which was dangerous for me to obtain. It was also putting my country in danger.

[Unidentified speaker] The first question for Minister Jose Luis Cabaco comes from a journalist who asked questions earlier. It requests the minister to comment on the U.S. Government decision, reported yesterday, to withdraw an agreed loan to Mozambique. Here is the information minister's answer:

[Cabaco] We have lost nothing since we would have had to repay the loan in any case. I would like to say that we have long traditions in our country and our principles are not for sale. Above all, we want our independence and sovereignty. As you have seen, those who sell our country's independence and sovereignty are traitors. Therefore I believe that whatever the amount of money the United States is now withholding from us and might give to others is a small addition to the great price we have already paid for independence and sovereignty. That cost us the lives of our heroes.

[Unidentified speaker] Another journalist has asked whether there is evidence of a military coup in Mozambique...

[Cabaco] The popular nature of our army and our defense and security forces puts any idea of a military coup against the people's government out of the question. The clear, primary aim of the CIA ring in our country was to destabilize power by disrupting sectors of the state apparatus, our economic apparatus and, as we have seen here, by infiltrating vital areas of our armed forces.

[Question] Mr Minister, Mozambique has been the object of espionage activities with a view to a possible South African attack on Mozambique since 1976. Why is it only now, after the attack which took place on 30 January, that you have decided to dismantle the CIA network?

[Cabaco] First of all this is a technical problem, one that Mozambique did not create. The detection of a spy network usually reaches a point at which the country's security is in danger. That is why we had to intervene. To decide when and where this point comes is a technical problem. My answer is, technically, that we intervened at what we thought was the opportune moment.

[Question] I would like to ask two questions. The first is whether the CIA was cooperating with the secret services of other countries besides South Africa. The second is whether the CIA in Mozambique has been totally destroyed or is it a case of a luta continua [revolutionary slogan: the struggle continues]?

[Cabaco] We have evidence to show that this CIA network was also cooperating with the secret service in the British colony of Southern Rhodesia. As for the second, a luta continua.

[Question] Mr Minister, can you enlighten us about relations between the Maputo CIA ring and the so-called Mozambique national resistance movement?

[Cabaco] We have already said there was a link between this CIA network and the South African secret service. The national resistance movement is not a political movement. At the time of the Zimbabwe liberation struggle, the national resistance movement was the name given to a special operational detachment of a minority group of racists operating under direct orders from the Rhodesian forces general staff, just as today they are under the control of the South African army. Basically they consist of Mozambicans who belonged to the colonial army or traitors like those you have been shown here. They are there in effect to carry out permanent but undercover aggression against our country. Clearly, all the information the CIA was sending to South Africa was used by that country's operational organs. The resistance movement is an operational branch of the South African Army. Therefore the two are effectively linked.

[Question] Your action against the CIA was really brave. It is a slap in the face for the U.S. Government. Do you expect the United States to retaliate directly against Mozambique?

[Cabaco] Retaliate? Retaliate for what? Because a photographer has hit a journalist over the head with his camera? And the journalist uses a chair to protect himself? Is that something that calls for retaliation? Retaliation because we defended our sovereignty? Retaliation because we want to be independent? Because we want to be free? Or retaliation as it exists in the republic of South Africa when a white hits a black and the black takes defensive measures? Then the white retaliates, but not against the defensive measures as such, but rather the degree of daring they represent. This would be the only aim of retaliation.

We have not slapped anybody. We have just lifted our hand so as not to be slapped. Retaliation is only possible if the American concept is like the South African. The U.S. administration will not allow any such retaliation against our right to react to defend our country and its independence. If they want, they can retaliate. (?We can never allow) them to launch aggression against us. Our independence is like any independence won with blood. It was not given to us by them. It was wrested from an army which was supported by them. We were blacklisted by them because we became independent. It offended them because we became independent without their permission. [applause]

AFP Report

NC150717 Paris AFP in English 0654 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] Maputo, Mozambique, 15 Mar (AFP)--The government of President Samora Machel yesterday formally accused U.S. intelligence operatives of attempting to destabilize Mozambique by recruiting agents within the Machel administration.

In a sort of public confessional session which about 100 journalists attended, Mozambican Foreign Ministry official Jose Massinga and Air Force Captain Alcido Chivite said they had collaborated with Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agents who were acting under cover of diplomatic immunity. Four American diplomats and two of their wives were expelled from Mozambique early this month, accused of operating a spy network that leaked Mozambican military intelligence to the South African defense force. The press conference yesterday was intended to show that the CIA had prepared "a campaign of destabilization and assassinations" in the southeast African country, said Mozambican Information Minister Jose Luis Cabaco. He said that some details of the alleged U.S. infiltration were still secret and that an investigation was continuing. He refused to say how many people had been detained as a result of the investigation, though unconfirmed estimates have ranged as high as 1,000.

Mr Massinga and Capt Chivite, both appearing relaxed and showing no signs of maltreatment, gave copious details on the way that they had been contacted by U.S. diplomats from the time of independence six years ago to the days immediately after a raid into Mozambique by South African forces last January that killed 11 members of the African National Congress, which has been banned by Pretoria. They said that the American diplomats were chiefly interested in information about Mr Machel, key figures in the government and military, and on the role and number of Cuban, Soviet, East German and Chinese advisers in Mozambique. But neither Mr Massinga nor Capt Chivite was able to provide any tangible proof of dealings with the Americans.

The information minister, Mr Cabaco, also gave the floor to a Mozambican secret service agent, an air force captain answering to the code name "Magalhaes," who claimed to have penetrated the alleged CIA network in Mozambique by pretending to agree to provide information. It was reportedly Magalhaes' revelations that "unmasked" the activities of the Americans.

A newspaper report last week said that Capt Chivite, who had access to information on Mozambican Army supplies and the supplies of the former Zimbabwe guerrilla forces, was arrested after the South African raid in January on the Mozambican town of Matola. It said he and seven other army officers were awaiting trial on treason charges. South Africa has long accused President Machel of allowing Zimbabwean and South African nationalist guerrillas to use Mozambican territory as a base between terrorists attacks.

MINISTER CABACO VIEWS TENSION WITH SOUTH AFRICA

LD161545 Paris LE CONTINENT in French 11 Mar 81 pp 1, 4

["A.B." report: "Mozambique Raises Possibility of War With South Africa"]

[Text] Mozambique Information Minister Jose Luis Cabaco said he thinks that there is no cause for optimism about the chances of peace in southern Africa and that his country is prepared for war with South Africa. Mr Cabaco, who made that statement during a stopover in Paris on 9 March, was on his way home after attending the ceremonies to mark the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic's fifth anniversary and after making an official visit to Algeria at the invitation of his counterpart, Boualem Bessaiah.

The minister said that at present Mozambique does not know what form that war will take since the initiative rests with South Africa. "Pretoria might carry out raids as it did on 30 January, attempt a military invasion as was the case in Angola in 1975, continue to send saboteurs or impose an economic embargo on us," he said. It is not a confrontation between Mozambique and South Africa, according to him, since the whole of Africa is determined to help the South African people liberate themselves from apartheid. Thus, he said, while South Africa is at present a threat to Africa, "In the long term it is we who are a strategic danger to the apartheid regime." In Mr Cabaco's view there is no doubt about the outcome: South Africa will be a democratic state and Mozambique will never abandon the African National Congress--the South African liberation movement.

Commenting on reports from South Africa that the authorities were satisfied at Mozambique's decision to expel U.S. diplomats because that would prompt Ronald Reagan to support Pretoria even more, Mr Cabaco stated that the West has already been supporting Mr Botha for a long time. The South African raid on a residential district near Maputo on 30 January took place 12 hours after a speech in which President Reagan revived the cold war, he remarked. "We do not believe in coincidences." In addition in his speech on 14 February President Samora Machel had clearly indicated that NATO powers were implicated in the espionage networks working for South Africa in Mozambique.

Asked whether the visit to Maputo by Soviet warships meant increased USSR presence in his country, Mr Cabaco replied that this visit was the fifth of its kind and that the Soviet ships would not remain in Mozambique. "But it is clear," he added, that our intention was partly to remind Pretoria that we have friends and that it should be careful."

Finally, in the minister's view the situation is grave because "imperialism" is prepared to do anything to maintain its domination over Africa and the Indian Ocean where the number of military bases is constantly increasing.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON LIBERATION ISSUE

LD161606 Algiers APS in English 1215 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] [Dateline indistinct] [Words indistinct] fight against the racists is the only way for a full liberation of Namibia," said Mr Peter Mushanhagui, SWAPO international relations secretary, in an interview with the ALGERIAN NEWS AGENCY (APS) special envoy to the OAU ministerial session held recently in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

"We rely, thus, on the socialist countries, the African ones and on every country which is keen on peace to help us for reaching this objective," he added.

Analysing the evolution of the Namibian question at African level after the decisions of the 36th session of the OAU ministerial council, the SWAPO international relations secretary, Mr Mushanhagui, pointed out the action led without respite by his movement so that "relevant resolutions be adopted by our African brothers" and that the plan of action drawn by the OAU liberation committee in Arusha be fully implemented.

[Words indistinct] Mr Mushanhagui carried on, are significant for they include a convening of the United Nations Security Council to which the African group will request to play a leading part on the Namibian question."

"In a parallel direction with the help and support of all Africa, he added, we grant a particular interest to the political and diplomatic action to exercise pressure on the Western countries, Pretoria's allies. The African front is, in this respect, efficient." As concerns the United Nations plan on Namibia which has, let's recall it, [word indistinct] on Geneva conference and on the failure of it, the SWAPO international relations secretary stressed that this failure was owing to the Pretoria racist regime's intransigence and to the role played by the contact group member (Western) countries which had not exercised pressure on South Africa so to bring it to serious negotiations. Thus, these two factors, joined together, issued on the failure of the conference. [passage as received]

SOUTH AFRICA

AMBASSADOR SEES U.S. ROLE IN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA

LD171006 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Mar 81 CA

[Text] The South African ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Riaan Eksteen, says at this stage he does not think there is any way of settling the South-West Africa dispute except with United States involvement. Mr Eksteen, who was speaking on his arrival back in South Africa from New York, was commenting on speculation that the United States might take over responsibility for achieving a settlement in South-West Africa.

Interviewed by the SABC, [South African Broadcasting Corporation] Mr Eksteen said that in responsible circles, the latest General Assembly debate on South-West Africa had contributed to a further drop in the reputation of the United Nations. In addition, he said, major Western newspapers have commented on the hypocrisy and illegality of the General Assembly's action against South Africa. Asked whether criticism of the UN by the American ambassador, Mrs Kirkpatrick, could bring changes at the United Nations, Mr Eksteen said it was difficult to see this happening. Commenting on the continuing pressure being exerted on South Africa by the United Nations, Mr Eksteen said this should not be underestimated.

ZIMBABWE

MINISTER POSTPONES BULAWAYO ELECTIONS FOR SAFETY

LD170958 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Mar 81 CA

[Text] The minister of local government and housing, Comrade Zvobgo, announced today that the municipal elections scheduled to have been held in Bulawayo on March 28th and 29th have been postponed until further notice.

Speaking at a news conference in Bulawayo this afternoon, Comrade Zvobgo said elections in Salisbury and Chitungwiza will proceed as scheduled. He said the decision to cancel the Bulawayo election was made after he was advised by the ministers concerned with the maintaining of peace that to proceed with the election would involve serious risks to life.

Comrade Zvobgo issued a strong warning to those who want to take the law into their own hands. He said his ministry is eager to reimburse local Bulawayo authorities whose houses were damaged in the recent violence.

BRIEFS

ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR TO USSR--Raul Joaquim Paulo de Castro has arrived in Moscow to take up his post as Angolan ambassador. [Text] [Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 13 Mar 81 LD/EA]